Friday, June 6, 2008 ** Vol. 23 / No. 182 www.inquirer.net

RP aid sought on 2 Chinese's disappearance

By Alcuin Papa

IN WHAT COULD BE A TEST case of the mutual legal assistance agreement between the Philippines and Hong Kong, the wives of two Chinese nationals purportedly abducted in the country in 1998 and 1999 have formally asked the Philippine government

MORE, A11

RP proposes world rice stockpile at Rome's food summit NEWS / A2

Yves Saint Laurent in Filipino designers, in streets of Manila LIFESTYLE / C1

How to create that Carrie, Miranda, Samantha, Charlotte look LIFESTYLE / E4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

NINE-YEAR HIGH Above market expectations, RP's annual inflation rate pressures the central bank to boost interest rates later on Thursday for the first time in three years.

Inflation soars to 9.6%

Peso dives below P44 to a dollar as food, fuel costs rise

LIFELINE The long line at NFA rice outlets is getting longer by the day, like this one in Quezon City on Thursday. A now familiar scene throughout the country, the human chain is a virtual lifeline to the diminishing staple that's consumed by nearly 2 billion people. In Cagayan de Oro City, street protests against the rising cost of rice have started. As the food summit in Rome, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap has proposed the immediate creation of a global grains reserve as rice is the most prone to sharp price fluctuations as a result of a "very thin market"—only 5 to 7 percent of total production is traded worldwide. (Related stories on Pages A2 and A11.)

By Michelle V. Remo and Dexter L. Lusco

FILIPINO HOUSEHOLDS HAD TO SPEND MORE THAN 14 percent in May for the same amount of food they bought last year due to soaring prices caused mainly by runaway fuel and commodity costs.

Food prices jumped 14.1 percent last month from 12 percent in April, pushing the overall inflation rate to 9.6 percent, the highest in nine years, according to the National Statistics Office (NSO).

Food accounts for about half of the consumer basket. The price of rice alone rose 31.7 percent, fastest than the 24.6 percent in April.

For every 10-percent increase in food prices, about 2.3 million more Filipinos fall into poverty, according to a study by an Asian Development Bank economist. If the price of rice alone rises by the same rate, expect 660,000 people to swell the ranks of the poor, ADB economist Hyun Son said in the study.

To combat inflation, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) raised yesterday its benchmark interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point. The overnight borrowing rate was raised to 5.25 percent and the overnight lending rate to 7.25 percent.

The BSP said it was willing to take further action when necessary to control inflation.

The surge in food and fuel costs, which crimp consumer demand, sent the peso hurtling below P44 to a dollar, the lowest level since last October, prompting the BSP to intervene with dollar sales, currency traders said.

The stock market closed down nearly 2 percent.

The inflation rate settled at the high end of the central bank's forecast of 8.8 to 9.6 percent, and was over a percentage point higher than the 8.3 percent

INFLATION A2

NO HOUSE QUORUM

Special session to extend CARP urged

By Kristine L. Alave and Norman Bordadora

BISHOPS AND FARMERS WERE UPSET that for lack of a quorum, Congress failed on Wednesday night to hammer out a measure certified by President Macapagal-Arroyo as urgent to extend the agrarian reform program that expired on Tuesday, June 30.

With prospects dimming that House Bill No. 4077 will be passed before Congress adjourns on June 13, Bishop Broderick Pabillo of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) told reporters yesterday that it was necessary that Ms Arroyo call a special session.

HB 4077 seeks to amend the law on the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) for another five years and allocate P100 billion for the acquisition of land and provision of support services for beneficiaries.

On Wednesday night, Bishop Pabillo, chair of the CBCP's National Secretariat for Social Action, Justice and Peace, met with Speaker Prospero Nograles to get his commitment to see HB

SPECIAL A10

Olivares found guilty in first of 48 libel cases filed by The Firm

By Julie M. Aurelio

A MAKATI CITY JUDGE YESTERDAY CONVICTED journalist Ninez Cacho-Olivares of libel and sentenced her to a prison term of from six months to two years, 11 months and 40 days in connection with a 2003 article she wrote on a leading law firm's purported influence over the Philippine judiciary.

Judge Winlove Domayao of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 59 also ordered Olivares, the publisher and editor in chief of The Daily Tribune, to pay P5 million in moral damages and P53,732.25 plus interest in actual damages to CVC Law and

OLIVARES A-10

NINEZ CACHO-OLIVARES An unsettling judgment

Napocor files for power rate reduction

By Abigail L. Ho

STATE-RUN NATIONAL POWER CORP. (Napocor) has filed with the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) applications for its revised basic generation rates, as well as fuel cost and foreign exchange-related recoveries—a move that will bring down power rates in the next few months.

Napocor supplies about 40 percent of the power that Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) distributes in its franchise area that covers Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

The impact of Napocor's expected rate reduction will not be felt until the ERC approves the applications.

The level of the reduction will also depend on the rates the ERC will approve and how much power Meralco will purchase from the state firm.

The state firm's applications came in

NAPOCOR A11

More VAT fruits: GMA launches P1-B fund for students

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday unveiled yet another program to help the poor with the P1-billion Students Assistance Fund for Education for a Strong Republic, or "Safe for SR."

"Today, we launched the second of the major components of the fruits to be made available this year by our lower than projected budget deficit which can be attributed to VAT reforms," Ms Arroyo said, referring to increased collections of value-added tax (VAT).

The President also said at the Bulacan "Sinang" Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology (Earist) in Manila that half of the Safe for SR fund would shoulder a 100-percent scholarship for outstanding students and the rest for student loans.

Commissioner Nona Ricafort of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) later told reporters that P500 million would support scholarships to agri-fisheries courses and P200 million in English, Math and Science courses.

Besides the P1-billion fund, Ms Arroyo also announced that Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) had a separate ongoing program for "poor but intelligent students."

"The P1-billion program (will) pay the tuition and other fees of college students from poor families. DBP is opening a wide window of opportunity for 1,000 bright high school students who pass the program's academic and other requirements," she said.

The President then acknowledged the presence of 126 students comprising the first batch of DBP scholars.

MORE WAYS, FRUITS A10

Memo to Barack: Pros and cons of Hillary as veep

WASHINGTON—MEMO TO Barack Obama:

Now that you've named three people to help you pick a running mate, they surely will list the pros and cons of Hillary Rodham Clinton. And no doubt some lobbyists will do the same without your encouragement.

MEMO A4

Clinton decides to end bid, endorse Obama on Saturday

WASHINGTON—HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON will end her historic bid to become the first US female president and give her backing to Democratic rival Barack Obama on Saturday, capping a 17-month quest that began with the words "I'm in it to win it" with a more humble plea for party unity.

At the same time, Clinton's supporters urged Obama to pick the New York senator and former first lady as his vice president now that she has decided to support his inevitable presidential nomination.

Clinton's campaign chair, Terry McAuliffe, told MSNBC television that an Obama-Clinton ticket would be "unstoppable."

He added: "I think we would have the White House for 16 years."

CLINTON A4

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

WHAT'S INSIDE

LOPEZES SAY
Juday was simpler way to explain issue
/A7

RP proposes world rice stockpile at food summit

By Raul Hunsale
Business Editor

ROME—THE PHILIPPINES HAS PROPOSED THE immediate creation of a global grain reserve or stockpile to protect both importing and exporting countries from sharply fluctuating prices.

Speaking before the world food summit hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) here, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said the stockpile could be managed by an appropriate United Nations agency like the World Food Program, which has a track record in administering food reserves.

Under the Philippine proposal, participation in the grain reserve will be on a voluntary basis with annual fixed stocks warehoused in countries and regions prepared to experience food shortfalls for immediate access in times of need.

In a stabilizing mechanism to moderate unusual price fluctuations, the grains reserve would operate and deliberate price band.

This will protect grains producers when prices go below the low end of the band. At that point, exporting countries can sell or deposit their commodities in the grains reserve at the low end of the price band, preventing the release of more stocks into the market that can further crash prices against farmers.

When prices breach the high end of the band, the grains reserve would sell or lend stocks to importing countries which would like to avoid having to buy food at higher than normal market prices. The infusion of supplies is expected to moderate, if not stop, further increases in food prices.

Yap said exporting countries should also be allowed by multilateral financing institutions to borrow funds against their stocks kept in the global grains reserve.

"This is an effort to ensure that by preventing the gradual inability of food producers, they will continue to produce food, while the world's poor and hungry will be sheltered from the harm of harsh speculative commodity prices," Yap said.

Yap suggested in the Philippine government delivered at the food summit that rice be [illegible] the list of the proposed global reserve inventories because it is the staple consumed by nearly three billion people.

The proposed reserve could be expanded later to include other staples such as wheat and corn, he said.

In urging the Philippine position, Yap pointed out that among the world's traded staples, rice should be the first commodity to be covered by a global stockpile because it has become the most prone lately to sharp price fluctuations as a result of "a very thin market"—only 3 to 7 percent of total production of this grain is traded worldwide.

He said current rice prices have jumped 68 percent from year-ago levels. Since January this year, rice prices have soared 21 percent.

Emphasizing the urgency of the Philippine proposal, Yap said: "Whatever the outcome will be at the conclusion of this conference, let us be reminded that the world's vulnerable are not interested to hear more of our words, but are actually begging for our action, now. We confront a new order and we condition is simple, yet if the objective is to stabilize price and supply to protect the world's poor and hungry, we must point, no matter how seemingly difficult the path may be."

Cash-for-work agri subsidy proposed

By Norman Bordadora

THE CHAIR OF THE HOUSE committee on agriculture yesterday suggested support for the government's plan to give P1,500 cash to farmers as fertilizer subsidy.

Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra, however, called on the government to ask the farmers to help construct, repair or rehabilitate infrastructure that will also benefit the agriculture sector.

"I propose that the assistance be within the framework of a cash-for-work program. I think it won't be asking too much from them to work for a day dredging an irrigation canal, cleaning a road, or improving infrastructures they themselves would benefit from," Mitra said.

"And I don't think farmers will mind working for a day in exchange for P1,500 which is six times the P260 minimum daily wage," he added.

Mitra said that with the farmers work input, the subsidy ceases to be a dole-out.

"If they'll do the work together, then it becomes paid consumed action. They can tell the urban taxpayers who said hoe-none of the bill. Hey, look we'd put in work for the subsidy," he said.

Another added benefit of that scheme, Mitra said, will be the paper trail that will cover the funds distribution for them of a payroll.

"The process becomes transparent, there will be no [illegible], ghost employees are boxed out because the subsidy consequently will have who received by the session," Mitra said.

"If farmers will give their 'sweat equity' for the P1,500, then they'll view it as a hard-earned money and not something of a government's giveaway they can squander unconscionably," Mitra said.

He said that if 50 percent of the 14 million farmers and fishermen will get P1,500 each, the cost will be P10.5 billion.

"(It) it will be under a facilities-for-work scheme, then 50 million members can be utilized to improve agricultural facilities," Mitra said.

Mitra said government should ensure that the money will indeed be used by farmers to buy fertilizers.

Shell
Fuels

We find more ways to help you go further.

Here at Shell, we take our commitment to our customers very seriously. That's why we're giving you our most advanced fuel economy formula yet. Our fuels now have a triple action cleaning system designed to help keep your engine free of mileage-robbing deposits. This is one of our many ways of helping you save on fuel expenses as part of our dedication in helping you go further.

Get started by heading to one of our stations today.

made to move

How Many Pounds Do YOU Want to Lose?

OVERALL BODY FAT
For women who are simply overweight to those who are in the "obese" category, the **Fat Mobilization System (FMS)** is the easy, Safe & Sure way of losing fat, without hunger or workout sessions. Compared to on-again, off-again diets and exercise routines, FMS achieves inch-loss and pounds-gone a lot faster than other methods. You just lie down and relax – FMS treatments can burn as much as 2000 calories in only 25 minutes!

PEAR-SHAPED
When your hips and bottom are a bit heavier in proportion than the rest of your body, the **Vura Pulse** treatment is excellent. It especially targets the fat deposits that cause cellulite, successfully reducing the overweight areas. Then, to remove those figure-destroying saddlebags, the non-surgical machine treatment, **Ultrashape**, concentrates on the remaining stubborn fat in that area, resulting to a noticeably improved leg shape.

APPLE-SHAPED
If you have a bigger upper body, it's usually due to non-aqueous cellulite (trapped fats composed of more fat than water). When applied to the upper body overweight problem, the **Fat Mobilization System** helps eliminate this kind of excess fat, allowing your figure to become more elegantly balanced. And **Endermologie**, the first US-FDA approved medical treatment for cellulite, smoothens the skin's uneven appearance.

STUBBORN LOWER ABS
Electro-lipolysis treatments are really effective in attacking that bulging loose tummy fat for a much flatter abdomen. And you can quickly get rid of those annoying "love handles" and "spare tire" problems. Additional **Physique Inch-Loss** treatments can then tone and firm up the sagging areas while strengthening the body muscles. A single 15-minute session of Physique is reported to be equivalent to doing 225 sit-ups!

POST-PREGNANCY POUNDS
The best time to lose post-natal fat is about 3 months after giving birth. The **Fat Mobilization System** can be focused on any body area and is a great way to get rid of the flab and droops from pregnancy. After quickly losing inches of the fat, the remaining more stubborn bulges are removed with **Ultrashape**, the wonderful non-surgical alternative to liposuction. It can achieve up to 2 cm waist reduction in just a single treatment.

For a more accurate assessment of your body type and appropriate treatments, call us now for a FREE consultation today.

Call 894-BODY (2639)

marie france

MAKATI ORTIGAS TORRE ROSARIO BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PARANAQUE - TEL. No.: [illegible] CEBU - TEL. 233-7637

Memo to Barack: Pros and cons of Hillary as veep

Front page A1

We happily fall into the second category, so we asked an array of political insiders, from all persuasions and parties, to offer their thoughts. Herewith, free of charge, is a summary of their responses:

Pro: Hillary helps with white, working-class voters. They abandoned her in droves in key states such as Ohio and Pennsylvania. Although they lean Democratic, many are threatening to stay home or vote for John McCain in November. Hillary appeals strongly to them, and the slight help you'd keep Michigan and Pennsylvania in the Democratic column (from 2004) while boosting your chances to grab Ohio, Missouri and Florida.

Con: She undermines your core message. Your campaign theme from Day One was "Change." You want it clear you haven't sobered only to the Rush Limbaughs but to Republicans that you're a longer legacy of partisan warfare and entitlement were settling in Washington. That sends "Clinton administration." Choosing Hillary may be a smart conventional move, but it smacks of predictable, old-school politics and it reminds the ghosts of the divisive 1990s.

Chemistry

Pro: Hillary has enough experience and political heft to convince voters she could be president at a moment's notice, the "threshold question" for a vice president.

Con: You two don't seem to like each other very much. When you were closing in on the nomination, she kept exposing your weaknesses and pursuing your personal foes. On your night of triumph, she stole your thunder by refusing to concede and by dropping hints of a vice presidential bid. When it fits chemistry the test, the compatibility?

Hatchet woman

Pro: She puts a familiar on your team. The vice presidential nominee typically is the hatchet man (or woman) who lends the attack against the other ticket. Ironic against weakest is beautifully: John Edwards excavated the role, with unhappy results. You're the basketball player; let Hillary throw elbows with the refs.

Con: Hillary can't decide. Is she or not, Hillary is a divisive figure who causes millions of Americans to swoon. No one stirs up the conservative base like she does, and that might offset the good she does to key blue-collar regions and elsewhere.

Bill Clinton

Pro: Bill Clinton. Hillary comes packaged with the most successful Democratic politician of his generation. Bill, revered by many Democratic voters, Bill is an instinctive, brave campaigner who left office with high approval ratings, a booming economy and budget surplus and countries at peace.

Con: Bill Clinton. Throw the "No Drama Obama" mantra out the window. The former president is a larger-than-life character who can't avoid microphones, cameras or scenes. Opponents not only would dredge up the Lewinsky affair, impeachment, Lincoln Bedroom fund raisers, presidential pardons, etc., they also would debate into more recent questions about his huge fees from foreign interests and the possible national security conflicts they could present.

Race, gender

Pro: Hillary helps with women and Hispanics. Yes, this is partly a subset of lines No. 1. But Hillary has very well among Hispanics, who are important to your hopes of winning Florida, Colorado and New Mexico. And many high-income, college-educated women also value career skewers to her and are keenly disappointed at her second-place finish.

Con: How much history will downtown make? Political scientists know voting trends in the micro-precinct level, but no one has ever settled whether the nation will elect a woman or a black to the White House. Combining the emotional pressures of racial and gender prejudices is one way may be too much to ask.

2 for price of one

Pro: Hillary brings a proven team of loyal minions, planners and volunteers to the ticket.

Con: Why not get two for the price of one? To safeguard her husband's legacy and her own ambitions, Hillary may worry more campaign vigorously and wholeheartedly for you, whether she's on the ticket or not. Let her do so while you pick a running mate who brings other strengths.

Taste in music

Pro: She might put Arkansas to play Bush near the state early in 2009, but maybe the state's former first lady, whose husband's presidential library is in Little Rock, can put it in your column.

Con: She has dubious taste in music. Throughout Pennsylvania she played the theme from "Rocky," a movie about a white protagonist who beats up a black man before losing to him. And she made a Celine Dion taste her official campaign song. Enough said. AP

Clinton decides to end bid

Front page A1

In a letter to supporters early Thursday, Clinton said she would cast an event in Washington to thank her backers and urge the party to unite behind Obama, who on Tuesday night secured the 2,118 delegates needed to clinch the Democratic nomination.

"I have said throughout the campaign that I would strongly support Senator Obama if he were the Democratic Party's nominee, and I intend to deliver on that promise," Clinton said in the letter published by senior aides to reporters.

The New York senator had so far refused to concede defeat, saying she would consider her options in the coming days.

"I will be speaking on Saturday about how together we can rally the party behind Senator Obama. The stakes are too high and the task before us too important to the nation now," the letter said.

Putting over splits

Clinton looked ahead to the November showdown between Obama and Republican presidential candidate John McCain as she sought to paste over splits within the Democratic Party that had been laid bare in the bitter nominating race.

"This has been a long and hard-fought campaign, but as I have always said, my differences with Senator Obama are small compared to the differences we have with Senator McCain and the Republicans," Clinton said.

Obama offered a similar message at a Manhattan fund-raising event late Wednesday, saying: "Now that the inevitable squabble is done, all of us can focus on what needs to be done in November."

US media earlier reported that Clinton would bow out on Friday at the urging of Democratic members of Congress, but her campaign officials said she would hold interviews on Saturday instead to allow some of her supporters to attend.

Clinton visited her campaign headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, on Wednesday to inform most of the staff that their services would no longer be required after Friday. Junior staffers became emotional and some cried at the final confirmation that their 14 months of hard work had come to an end.

Available options

In refusing to concede immediately Clinton kept her options open while her supporters spent Wednesday talking up her credentials to be Obama's nominee for vice president.

Her decision not to officially close the campaign also seemed to signal a new effort to pressure her opponent into some of health care. This advisers spoke on condition of anonymity because officials were not authorized to discuss the endeavour said Clinton held with her congressional supporters.

Other options include forcing her delegates to back Obama and ending her candidacy unconditionally. The official account that neither Clinton nor her inner circle had decided specifically what course to take other than to recognize that the active state of her bid to become the nation's first female president had ended.

On the telephone call with important congressional supporters including New York Rep. Charles Rangel, a longtime political patron, Clinton was urged to draw a close to the conventions campaign, or at least express support for Obama. Her decision to implement might many in the campaign by surprise and left the campaign scrambling to finalize the logistics and specifics behind her campaign's departure.

Interested in VP post

Even so, Clinton has told lawmakers privately that she would be interested in the vice president nomination.

Obama told reporters after a visit to the US Senate that he had talked with Clinton in the early hours of Wednesday, adding: "We are going to be having a conversation in the coming weeks."

Obama indicated he would at least consider his long-running rival for the No. 2 slot. "Senator Clinton would be on anybody's short list, obviously," he told CBS' Dorea, adding they agree on most of the issues.

Later, Obama told ABC News that Clinton was a "special case" to consider as a candidate for the vice presidency. "She's somebody who traveled this journey with me. She ran extraordinarily capable and tenacious. I mean, she is just a gross candidate," he said.

Caroline Kennedy

At the same time, however, Obama announced a three-member vetting team that would head his search for a running mate.

The three members of the team are Caroline Kennedy, daughter of assassinated president John F. Kennedy; Eric Holder, a former deputy attorney general, and James Johnson, a senior Democratic Party insider.

The Obama camp's disclosure about the team was an effort to shift the focus from the long, divisive primary campaign toward the general election.

Kennedy's name came as a surprise, although she endorsed Obama at a critical time last winter, saying he could be an inspirational leader like her father. She also campaigned for Obama.

Holder is a former federal prosecutor and Washington Superior Court judge who held the No. 2 job at the justice department under President Bill Clinton.

Johnson is a wealthy lawyer among Democrats for having helped previous candidates, including John Kerry four years ago, sift through vice presidential possibilities. He is a former chief executive officer for the mortgage lender Fannie Mae.

His decision alone

"Senator Obama is pleased to have these talented and dedicated individuals running this rigorous process," spokesperson Bill Burton said. "He will work closely with them in the coming weeks but ultimately this will be his decision and his alone." AFP

Father's Day
SALE
June 6 to June 15, 2008

up to 50% off on selected items

Free Gift Certificates

Minimum purchase of
P5,000 entitles you to a P1,000 gift certificate (single receipt)
P3,000 entitles you to a P500 gift certificate (single receipt)

PabDer
UOMO

Shangri-La Plaza • Glorietta 3 Ayala center • Robinsons Place Manila • Trilogy • Gateway Mall
Festival Supermall • Alabang Town Center • Robinsons Galleria • Shoppesville, Greenhills
Ayala Center Cebu • SM City Cebu • Robinsons Place Bacolod

citi

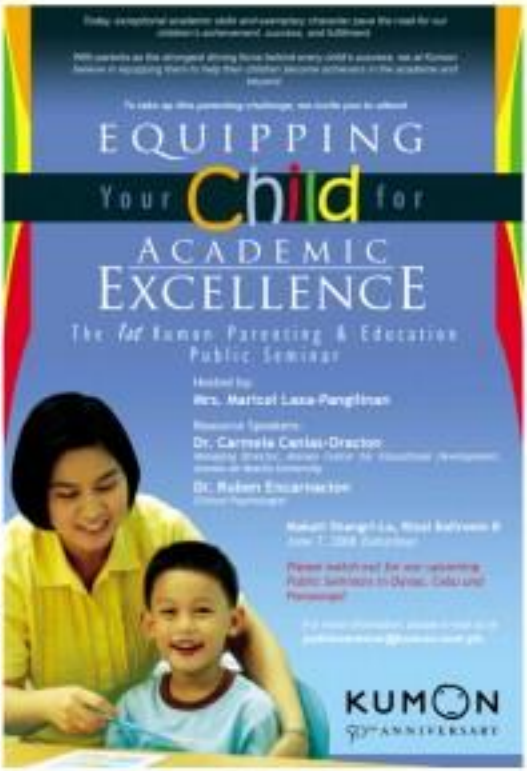
We take rebates even further –

Get 5% Rebate on your Fuel Purchases.

Save each time you load up with the new Shell Citi Visa credit card. With the best fuel rebate yet, you easily get 5% fuel rebates everytime. Cut back on fuel costs by calling 423-3000 or visiting www.citibank.com.ph.

Go even further with the new Shell Citi Visa.

made to move



FREE
shower set
with every
purchase

Promo period: June 05 - 30, 2009

Sumptus Sumptus Equanus Convallis

GROHE

DEXTERTON

SNUBBING THE OMBUDSMAN

Only 1 witness in ZTE probe

ONLY ONE OF THE FOUR KEY WITnesses in the NBN-ZTE scandal showed up yesterday at the Office of the Ombudsman, when they were scheduled to affirm their statements that they made during the Senate inquiry into the controversial $329-million deal.

A no-show was the Senate's star witness, Rodolfo "Boy" Lozada, businessman Jose de Venecia III and newspaper columnist Jarius Bondoc.

Only witness Danny Madrigal showed up and affirmed every detail of his Senate testimony, according to the complainant, lawyer Ricardo Francisco.

Francisco petitioned the Ombudsman panel studying the seven complaints to summon the Senate witnesses as their duely testimony would be taken into account in determining probable cause.

Among the respondents in the cases filed with the ombudsman body were President Macapagal-Arroyo, her husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, former election chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and Commission on Higher Education chair Romulo Neri.

Madrigal, who claimed to be a consultant for the Chinese-based ZTE Corp., earlier linked the First Couple to the now-aborted national broadband network project. He alleged that the contract was overpriced by more than $200 million.

Madrigal alleged that ZTE Corp. advanced a total of P41 million to a so-called "Comelec Group" to ensure that the contract would be awarded to ZTE.

He identified the members of the "Comelec Group" as Abalos, Ruben Reyes, Leo-San Miguel, retired general Quirino de la Torre, and the First Couple.

Lozada, who testified on the controversial deal last February, asked for a deferment.

"Jun Lozada wants to affirm all his testimonies. There is no question about it. He wanted to do it on the last hearing... but it seems that his lawyers will have to agree among themselves how to go about it," Francisco said.

During the May 28 hearing Francisco asked the Ombudsman to grant Lozada and the other witnesses immunity from any suit that may be filed against them in connection with their testimonies, saying that some of their statements might be self-incriminating. Jocelyn R. Uy

An Open Letter to Congressman

Jose de Venecia

Dear Congressman De Venecia,

Through all these years, we have somehow tolerated you. *Pinagbigyan ka namin.* That is to put it a little bluntly. Even if you were the traps of all traps, you had that kind of charm that many of us wished your "sunshine" disposition, though suspect, and your advocacy for a "rainbow political coalition" would work, for our country to proceed.

We also went along with your machinations to rewrite the Constitution as it may solve many of the ills of our politics and government, although quite a few believe you were just positioning for your political longevity and perhaps become Prime Minister under a parliamentary form of government.

We were about to forget your Landoil fiasco, your alleged behest loans during the Marcos regime, and many other alleged anomalies linked with you. The allegedly overpriced Northrail and Southrail projects, which you negotiated as Speaker of the House of Representatives, were beginning to be obscured by many other issues. Until your son and namesake suddenly popped out like a woman scorned charging anomalies on the National Broadband Network project, which he failed to bag as a businessman vying for big government contracts.

Your son Joey, along with otherwise shady characters presenting themselves as whistleblowers (such as Jun Lozada and Dante Madriaga), dramatically testified in a long-drawn nationally-televised investigations conducted by the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee on the NBN-ZTE deal, alleging massive anomalies.

Joey and his friend Jun Lozada indeed caused quite a stir in the Senate, which the usual political opportunists tried to convert to their advantage, even as the extremists also tried to use the issue to breathe life to their flickering and desperate bids to grab power. Your son and Lozada were feted like rock stars, and paraded like heroes and saints. It did not matter that it was downright illegal for the son of the then Speaker of the House of Representatives to engage in business with government. In fact, your son admitted that you have hosted meetings with parties involved in the project.

With the NBN-ZTE deal cancelled, and the Senate investigations going nowhere (as many Senate investigations do), it seems that you and your wife Gina, along with self-styled "whistleblower" Sandra Cam, Iloilo Vice Governor Rolex Suplico and some others, are trying to resuscitate the issue. In relation with this, we have received disturbing reports that:

1. The man identified as "Alex," the supposed new witness presented on television by Suplico, claiming to have supplied the photographs of the President and the First Gentleman playing golf with executives of ZTE in Shenzhen, China, was a fake and a poseur. Suplico later claimed his witness "disappeared", maliciously insinuating the government had something to do with the disappearance of his "witness." The photographs actually came from your wife, Gina, according to reports we have received. And the person who introduced himself to media as "Alex" was reportedly an associate of Cam.

2. Your wife Gina is leader of the group that has been planning for your "coming out party." The plan includes students "serenading" you to come out, and for leaders of various groups to urge you to testify "for the sake of the country." The image to be projected is that of a "national outpouring of support" for your coming out. Who will finance the "serenaders" and the so-called "talking heads" is not very hard to discern. Among those who have reportedly regularly attended the planning sessions include Cam (whose residence in San Juan is frequent site of the meetings); Sister Mary John Mananzan of the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines (AMRSP), the handlers of Lozada; Dinky Soliman, Carol Araullo of Bayan, among others. The group also met with Bishop Oscar Cruz last weekend to further plot out the scenario, and recently with Bishop Yniguez of Caloocan City to project that the religious sector is behind you.

3. The plan is for you to be coy about testifying, citing the current problems of the country that needed to be attended first. But because of the "growing clamor" that your wife is trying to encourage, you will eventually come out. Another scenario is for you to drop a "bombshell," after which you go abroad for health reasons to avoid being confronted by administration senators, which we believe you will never agree to because running away is cowardly.

If you are a party to all this Manong Joe, may we ask : **How can the truth proceed from lies?** ***Papaano magbubunga ng katotohanan ang kasinungalingan?***

We are reminded of the homily of Fr. Rolando de la Rosa, Rector of the University of Santo Tomas in a mass attended by Jun Lozada. He said: **"We cannot be warriors of truth if we are not men and women of integrity."**

Virginia Rivera (CFO/BFO-CALAMBA/ZTE); Edith Cisneros (ABRA/NN-Lagrisa); Arnelia Asencio (CPC-Cavite); Victor Capuchal (ALAMAT-Rizal); Marivela Anastacio-I; Magpoc S. Gonzales; Eufemia B. Abit; Edmundo A. Calamba; Gonzalo A. Calzarilla; Charlito Sarmiento; Sylvia J. Rojas; Marlon C. Juachi; Glenn A. Bramble; Alfredo Chabo; Jane C. Silver; Rolan D. Ramos (LTFRB); Regina Rose (Akunad ng Kalalakan); Ronaldo Duke; I REAP SO-SIO; Anthony Cadeo (KIDLAT); Ma. Mamalateo (Bataan Poly. College- BS President); Mark Paolino (SUBT-President); Rodolfo Villena (YOUNG PAEC); Pabloanan Mendoza (COED MASTER); Ramelo Delfin (CAPSA-TOLTOI-BATANGUEÑO); Rhodel Nemiz Fabon (RIZALENO); Benjamin G. Manansala; Ma. Rosario Nepomuceno; Cristobalgon O. Dayondon; Ronald C. Silva; Angelito C. Mendoza; Pedro Matar Jr.; Angel M. Pascua; Jan Mark M. Bernales; Bryan D. De Vera; Arsenio A. Serrano; Santiago S. Ulip Jr.; Rodel T. Flores; Junel B. Dayanday; Romulo A. Orodner; Renzo E. Quinones; Marcial David (CAT-U-Hanamin Lupao; Karina Rivera Espinosa (PM) Ms.; Victoria Hernandez(I. Youth); Rolando Aparicio/Angeles (Main Prov); Marites Herrera(SAPA-BICOL) URBAN POOR); Ma. Yuna(CHIBUK URBAN POOR); Perry Angeles(ARAW); Nestor Ramos(Tabak Ing Kapampangan); Arnold S. Gumtang/Jenny Lyn Farnal's Org.); Felix F. Hernandez(BMC/BCN-Alt-Pol); Marina D. Carreon(BMC/BCN-Lab); Nonita H. Santiago(BMC/BCN-President); Ada B. Lingat(BMC/BCN-Alt-Pol); Leonora C. Ramos(BMC/BCN- Bulacan); Rolando S. Serrano(BMC/BCN); Herminia Rodriguez(BMC/BCN); Nancy Ines G.(BMC/BCN); Mercedes C. Rivera- DMC/BCN); Antonio Casimiro(BMC/BCN); Leslie O. Tolmo(BMC/BCN-Executive Secretary); Alfred S. Romero(PTC/CANDAMAY-Prez.); Teddy C. Tibay(PTC/CENPTECO-Prez); Antonia G. Tayon(PTC/LISIM-Vice); Merle Fe. Hornquela (PTC/SIM- Mission-Prez); Alex E. Suarez(PTC/SAMAHAN-Prez); Ludivia J. Fernandez(PTC/Bataa-Prez.); Darby A. Ramos(SIBE- Jennifer Ramos(KASIBAY); Rudy L. Campalesa (ALAB-Pk-Prez); Josephine Manansala(SIKO-Prez); Merlita Galeste(SIKO-Vice); Ed S. Cayanan(BASECO ALAB-Pk); Jovan Pagaoa(ALAB-Pk); Sergio S. Tolentino(WPP-Veterans Prov); Judy Cengzon(Democracy Magkakaisa/Bonny ng Inagong Mang-Cuddlan Chapman); Antonio Maximo(Tomas Pazcual; Isaquiano; son Grade to learn; 3-13 Member); Cesarina Abadesco(NMM-Prez); Rowena Ibarra(Bagong Silang Youth Org-Member); Gerald E. Macuja(Pateros Employees Union); Mark Tolosa; Stella L. Bartolo(Kalinaw Sa Pinoy-Alt); Dan Dan L. Bonifacio; Angelo Angeles(NPA-CCP/Pro Prez); Andrew U. Jamero(CPRA- Pasulas Agapay- Ang Kalusugan); Marina Dela Pena(Mamamayan Muna); Ma. Rosario Villanueva(PCWF-Exec); Lily M. Lumagui(Bulacan Federation of Senior Citizens-VP Senior Vice Dual); Maribel Fabunan(LPPRA- Sec); Elena Esperon(CCPN-PPC); Felix Eumagan(SIMAY); Wilson O. Bacus(SPEA Inc-Auditor); Rowena Jose(PAMBANSA Alt-Dist/Pateros DPC); Rose Pascual(BCMPC); Veronica Manalo(Spec); Edna Rosellon(Brg. Kgd); Jacinto Pinlac(BARRA Alt); Ruth Vergara; Marina E. Lumantas; Lynn R. Martinez; Carlos S. Bolango; Rolando Dimaano; Sherry Gonzales; Ram Sherlan; Arsenio Velez; Fe Duran; Clara Poblete; Vanessa Grace Dadia; Lucia Mallari; Katherine Kapunan; Jocelyn Fabros; Rolando Alcala; Ray C. Rosaya; Irish R. Dio; Henry H. Sanchez; Erlenson Mirasol; Jaqueline Reyes; Raymond Ho; Axel D. Poulas; Maribel Robles; Ruel Santos; Marvelyn Velasco; Edwin Dominico; Raymond S. Ruben; Vicente H. Alcantara; Jonathan D. Lucero; Jelly Ann M. Lucero; Mark Villaneza; Linda Talingdan; Delia F. Fortaleza; Lolita Maximilian; Juan Carlos Maximilian; Diosdado B. Jamias; Lorna M. Ramos; Jun A. Bautista; Virginia P. Pastor; Ponciano Flores; Lumelda Eliseo; Lucia Mallari; Ma. Rosario Villanueva; Maribel R. Lim; Harold Cuesta; Carmen Cuesta; Virgie Madrigal; Josephine M. Fernandez; Ray Carlo Bolango; Mary Fancy; Lolita Rodriguez; Marivel Pantin; Marivel Orteo; Cecilia N. Camayang; Marina R. Bolango; Gilbert Camayang;

Cut in access fees to cut text charges–NTC

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE PRICE OF TEXT MESSAGES COULD go down to 40 centavos if a proposal to trim access charges between networks is approved, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) said.

Access charges cover a cellular phone service operator's cost of carrying a text message and handing it over to another network, for instance from Smart to Globe or Sun, and vice versa.

At present, the access charge is 20 centavos, and the regular price of a text message is P1, although sending within a network is cheaper, for example, Smart to Smart or Globe to Globe or Sun to Sun.

But the remaining costs also go down depending on the traffic or competition, so the price of a text message could go down to 40 centavos or even 20 centavos, said Edgardo Cabanlisa, chief of the NTC Common Carrier Division.

Cabanlisa said the access charges cannot be scrapped completely because there are costs involved in providing the text messaging service but they can be lowered to make routing more affordable.

But NTC Commissioner Ruben Canoban has admitted that the NTC's proposal to lower access charges may be questioned before the courts, as happened to its circular mandating SIM registration and no expiry for cellphone load.

That circular was shelved indefinitely because of a temporary restraining order that opened into a court injunction in 2001.

Lam-Ping that NTC issued two circulars: one ordering to cap access charges for SMS between operators, say Smart and Globe, and another to cap access charges for voice calls between two operators.

NTC wants the access charge for text messaging between different operators to go down to 15 centavos from the present 20 centavos.

It believes that cheaper access charges between networks would drive down the price of text messaging to 40 centavos or lower compared with the present national rate of P1.

As for voice calls, the TC wants access charges for off-network activity (Smart to Globe or Smart to Sun, and vice versa) to go down to P1.50 from the current P6.

PRINT TOWN

THE GENERICS PHARMACY 100 branches 20% CHEAPER MEDICINES HERE 7127777

Writes SMOOOTHLY TECNO

STANDARD

BALPEN · GELPEN · MARKER · HIGH LIGHTER · MECHANICAL PENCIL

Lopezes say Juday was simpler way to explain issue

By Abigail L. Ho

IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN TO THE MASSES technical jargon, especially the power industry gobbledygook that seems to be all the rage today.

That was precisely why the Lopez-owned First Philippine Holdings Corp., which holds a 33.47-percent stake in the Manila Electric Co., decided to go the roundabout way in trying to explain to the public what system loss really was.

Just last weekend, an ad featuring telenovela and host-office personality Judy Ann Santos comparing system loss to an ice melting in natural silver purchase reserved running on the Lopezes' ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.

Judasy, as she is popularly called, said system loss was the same way in the sense that when electricity was delivered from the point of origin to its destination, some of it would be lost along the way, due to either technical reasons or pilferage.

Simplifying the concept

First Holdings said it felt the need to come out with an ad simplifying the system loss concept as "certain groups are using technical concepts and complicated issues to manipulate public opinion, discredit Meralco or the Lopez group, and advance their personal agenda."

"As a major shareholder of Meralco, we are very concerned with the inaccurate information being circulated in the media. We want to help explain the concept of system loss because the public needs to understand the issues so they can make informed opinions," the company said in a statement yesterday. It added that it was the one that sponsored the ad and not Meralco.

"The commercial sought to explain the salient points of system loss. We want the public to know that it is a natural electric occurrence among all utility companies, and its recovery is allowed by law," it added.

Unruffled

But the militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan ordered the ad for being unruffled to Juan's actual pain.

"With due respect to Ms. Judy Ann Santos, the Meralco ad is not entirely truthful. The analogy between electricity and melting ice is not precise and does not speak the whole truth about system losses," Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. said.

"For sure, the analogy about melting ice is simplistic and does not account for system losses brought about by pilferage and company use. If we were to follow the melting ice analogy, it's like saying we should also pay for ice that was stolen and for ice that we did not consume," he added.

But First Holdings explained that the electricity-melting ice analogy was used without intent to deceive or confuse the public.

"The company said it was but a means "to clarify, within the constraints of the broadcast medium, the simple fact that technical losses account for approximately 75 percent of system losses while pilferage accounts for 25 percent, and does not account for 2 percent."

MSU reunion

ALUMNI OF THE MINDANAO STATE University in Metro Manila will host the 2008 International MSUans Reunion on August 15-17 at 1 Najdanda, Mall of Asia, Pasay City. MSUans include all alumni, faculty, staff, students and other people who have been in any way involved with the Mindanao State University System. For more information, please e-mail or call Merl Opeña, homesub@gmail.com or 09189083772.

Inflation soars to 9.6%; peso dives below ₱44 to $1

recorded in April.

"The average inflation rate for the first five months of the year stood at 6.9 percent, way above the government's annual target of limiting the rise in consumer prices to 3-5 percent this year.

"The BSP said it expected average inflation to reach somewhere between 7 percent and 9 percent in 2008 and between 4 percent and 6 percent in 2009, if no extra measures. "Policy measures undertaken now will help address risks to inflation in 2009," it said.

David Sloan, a senior strategist at Standard Chartered Bank, Hong Kong, said the interest rate increase "will help the peso to some degree, but overall short-term negative pressure remains."

Excluding unbarred food and energy items, core inflation rose to 6.2 percent in May compared with 5.9 percent in April.

Further increases

Prices of goods and services will almost certainly rise further before they start to ease, and the pain will be felt by Filipinos, especially the poor, well into next year, according to some of the country's leading economists.

More importantly, an inflation rate more than 10 percent will become increasingly difficult to control, said Gerardo Sicat, an economist at the University of the Philippines.

"The higher the inflation rate is, the more difficult it becomes to control," said Balisacan, who served as socioeconomic planning secretary and Monetary Board member during the Aquino administration.

At this point, he said it was "critical" for the government to send a message that it would not decisively against the steady pace of price increases.

Stagflation

Without any confidence-building measures from regulators, the public will likely start to anticipate the price increases, with consumers raising their prices and consumers curing back on purchases.

"The result of something like this is 'stagflation' and that will be even more difficult to solve," he said, referring to the phenomenon in which rising prices are aggravated by a stagnant economy brought about by weak spending. "[The situation] could start feeding on itself."

The NSO said food, beverage and tobacco posted a year-on-year inflation rate of 12.7 percent, up from 11.6 percent in April.

Fuel, light and water recorded an inflation rate of 8.2 percent in May from 8 percent in April; clothing, 4 percent from 3.9 percent; housing and repairs, 4 percent from 3.6 percent; services, 7.8 percent from 6.9 percent; and miscellaneous items, 3.7 percent from 2.6 percent.

Too late

Balisacan said it was too late to stop the inflation rate from crossing over into double-digit territory because it would take time for government measures—whether through pump-priming activities or by raising interest rates—to filter through the broader economy.

"The inflation rate will still go up before it goes down," he said. "There is a very good chance that it will breach 10 percent, because it did not decelerate by much last month."

Hunger to worsen

When this happens, it will be the poorest of the poor who will bear the brunt of the economic burden, said UP-Diliman economist Benjamin Diokno, who chaired the policy-making Development Budget Coordination Committee under the Ramos administration.

"The hunger incidence could worsen," he said, adding that the recent high food and rice inflation rates were "alarming."

"I expect this surge to continue, with double-digit rates [in the] next few months," Diokno said.

Traditionally government try to balance the demands of economic growth with those of keeping inflation in check. Promoting economic growth means keeping interest rates low, but this runs counter to the drive against inflation since low interest rates tend to encourage spending, which is, in itself inflationary.

In the case, however, Balisacan said that keeping prices steady should take precedence over promoting economic growth.

"Ten percent [inflation rate] is an important threshold," he said. "Beyond this level, the psychology of the people changes and it becomes more difficult to control their expectations [of price increases]."

US slowdown

Some economists are hopeful that the slowdown in the US economy would help temper global demand for oil, thereby resulting in the easing of prices.

Oil firms in the country were earlier reported as saying that the pch-

HEAT IN LINE, HEAT TIRE. After hours of waiting in line, these Quezon City residents finally buy their rice quota at the NFA warehouse and are on their way home. (ARCHIVE)

more this year than the original budget of P1.226 trillion to provide additional social services.

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said no other agency badly hard oppressed a proposal for the government to spend P3 billion every quarter to provide fuel subsidy to the land public transport sector. The subsidy is likely to come in the form of fuel purchases by drivers of jeepneys and buses.

The plan is intended to keep PUV drivers and operators from seeking another fare increase, he said.

Cash transfer

He said another P2 billion would be allocated for the "cash transfer" program, under which selected poor families shall be given allowances for health and education. The amount is good for six months, he said.

Earlier, Abalos-Iñiguez announced that it would spend another P2 billion to grant subsidy to "lifeline users," or households consuming less than 200 kilowatts of electricity a month.

With reports from Doris C. Franchi and Reuters

Realtors sue DAR over land conversion ban

THE CHAMBER OF REAL ESTate and Builders Associations (Crebad) has asked a local court to stop Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman from enforcing a ban on the conversion of agricultural lands into commercial use.

Crebad filed a petition for certiorari and prohibition with the Quezon City regional trial court to nullify Pangandaman's April 15, 2008 memorandum suspending applications for land conversion.

The real estate group, headed by Virgilio Romero II, also asked the court to void a Feb. 28, 2002 DAR administrative order, called the DAR conversion rules, restricting the use of agricultural lands.

Crebad argued that the memorandum and administrative order were unconstitutional and illegal, and Pangandaman should be stopped from implementing them.

Pangandaman issued the memorandum amid concern that the rice shortage was an offshoot of the "unabated conversion of prime agricultural lands for real estate development."

Crebad said the implementation of the DAR conversion rules and the memorandum "have caused and will further cause grave and irreparable damage and injury to petitioners and its members".

The group argued that Pangandaman, in issuing the conversion rules, had expanded the coverage of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program to include lands that were exempt from the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law. TJ Burgonio

Test-Based review for

UP, Ateneo, La Salle and other colleges

AHEAD Tutorial & Review

Pre-school, High School, College & Law Entrance Tests Review
Tutorial & Advancement for all ages (Home- or Center-based)
IELTS • TOEFL • English Skills Training for Professionals

Concert for 'Cosme' schools rehab

A BENEFIT CONcert to raise money to rehabilitate schools and other structures destroyed by typhoon "Cosme" in Alaminos City will be held at the Acropolis Clubhouse in Libis, Quezon City on June 9.

The show starts at 7 p.m.

Proceeds of the concert will go directly to the city government for the rehabilitation of 34 public schools and other infrastructure as well as the agricultural and tourism sectors estimated at P239 million.

"The city needs to raise some amount and start the repair. The children and other victims of typhoon Cosme are in need of our help. Our mission is to help and make a difference," said ACTED and Alaminos ERC, both non-governmental organizations devoted to empower people and in the same time, to look after the tourists of the Hundred Islands National Park.

Expected to attend the affair are Former President Fidel V. Ramos, Senators Juan Miguel Zubiri and Francis Escudero, PCEC chairman and businessman Alfonso Tachiongco, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. chairman Manny Pangilinan, Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes, Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr., Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon Jr., Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, former PDP chief Senator Lumbao, Cabinet Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Bulacan Governor Joselito Mendoza and Cabuyao City Mayor Rommel Rubinos.

Those who could not buy tickets could help in other ways, according to RETREC and Alaminos ERC. "Attending the concert for a cause is not the only way to donate," it said.

Various cultural and choral performances are featured in showcase their world-class talent and to worth for little or no pay.

Mayor Meriam Bragazza expressed his gratitude to the two organizations and the donors.

BDO

Business Banking | Cash Management

We served up a bucket of solutions for KFC's Cash Management System.

KFC had a lot on its plate, but BDO Business Banking took charge of their collections and disbursements menu.

We find ways

People's Choice

SUPER BRAND

PLATINUM 2007
GOLD 2006
GOLD 2005
PLATINUM 2004
GOLD 2003
GOLD 2002
GOLD 2001
GOLD 2000
GOLD 1999

SUPER BRAND 2008 GOLD

PILOT G-TEC C3|C4

BL-GC3
BL-GC4

Philippines Exclusive Distributor
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
5710 D. Pandan St., Bangkal, Makati
P.O. BOX 1881 Ma. 3404815 to 17 Fax. 3408871
PILOT CORPORATION

Special session on CARP urged; law lapses June 10

For page 4 ▸

4077 through.

Since the President has not filed this bill as urgent, there is no reason for her party mates in the administration-led House not to pass the bill or hold a special session to get this done, Pablillo said.

"It's not enough that it has been certified as urgent. The President should use her power on her party mates to make it a law. If needed, there should be a special session," he said.

Pablillo said he was dismayed that the bill had been stalled not because of 61 ousters, but because of a lack of quorum. "Maybe they don't know how important this is to the country and to the farmers," he said.

Quorum questioned

Nograles's plenary discussions on the bill was abruptly stopped after the quorum was questioned as the number of lawmakers dwindled in the evening in spite of an agreement among them to approve it on second reading, said Akbayan Rep. Rizo Hontiveros.

Pablillo, along with about 100 representatives of farmer and peasant groups watching proceedings in the gallery, then marched to the office of Speaker Prospero Nograles in protest and waited for two hours.

Where the name of a member is missing, Nograles said there that he had given his word that he would vote to that HB 4077

PROTEST BY CANDLELIGHT Some 100 farmers held a silent vigil at the House of Representatives after the CARP extension bill fell to pass on Wednesday night due to a lack of quorum believed engineered by the so-called Negros bloc in the House. Congress will adjourn on June 13. JAUCIAN CRUZ

would be approved before the CARP law expiration and that he intended to keep it.

Nograles, however, pointed out that the Senate version of the bill had not yet gone past committee hearings.

Senators have said they would not be forced to act on the CARP extension without extensive deliberations.

What father started ...

Archbishop Antonio Ledesma of Cagayan de Oro City, executive chair of the National Food Security Council, joined Pablillo in his call for a special session in a June 4 letter to the President.

In his letter, Ledesma reminded Ms Arroyo that her father, former President Diosdado Macapagal, had "wanted to eliminate this cancer [of perpetual] by putting in place the Agricultural Reform Code."

"Let it not be said that our government let down the poor among us! Let it not be said that what the father started the daughter discontinued!" he said.

Cong DAR and NHMR figures, the CBCP said the government had distributed 7.14 million hectares out of the 9 million hectares distribution. By the end of 2007, the agencies had still to parcel 1.8 million ha for the benefit of 1.44 million farmers.

The farmers' groups—Oah Pinoy Magulad and Tgmpuan ng Magsasakang Organisasyon sa Timawayan (Timwa)—also appealed to Ms Arroyo to immediately call for a special session.

"If this will not be extended, the farmers' situation will worsen," Vergie Mercelita of Timwa said.

Mendoza said failure to extend the CARP law would lead to unrest that could culminate in a violent protest. She recalled the Mendiola massacre in 1987, when 13 people were killed and 80 were wounded during a demonstration of farmers outside Malacañang.

Also yesterday, around 700 farmers from different southern Luzon provinces began a 36-hr night march to Manila to press demands for a speedy enactment of the Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill (House Bill No. 3099).

In a statement, Orly Marcelino, secretary general of Kalipunan ng mga Magsasaka at Tsong Katagalugan (Kasama-TK), said the bill now being discussed in Congress was "sanitized" and "pinalamlam." With a report by Nikko Dizon in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, and Cathelene Gallupa, Inquirer Southern Luzon

More VAT fruits: GMA launches P1-B fund for students

For page 4 ▸

"I understand you will take up morning to the bank's partner schools. Good luck to all of you, congratulations!" she said in her speech launching the launch of the fund.

DBP is the DBP's advocacy to provide educational opportunities for underprivileged Filipino youth called "GMA Scholars."

Some scholars met the bank's program guidelines, such as having a personal family income of not more than P150,000 and ranking in the upper 20 percent of their high school graduating class.

DBP has earmarked P1 billion of its funds for a 10-year run of IDEP starting this school year. The amount will support 1,000 students of 50 batches of qualified high school students.

Fruits of VAT

The P1-billion Safe Fund came on the heels of the President's launching at the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday of a P2-billion power subsidy program to which 4 million "Filipino from the Genuine Income Tax" on families using less than 100 kilowatt hours of electricity monthly will be given a one-time subsidy of P500.

Ms Arroyo said she had decided to channel P82 collections or three subsidies to help the country cope with the rising costs of food, fuel and electricity instead of hoarding the chance of big business and some lawmakers to lift VAT on oil and power.

The President said the SET imposed on all products generated P4 billion from January to April, and thus the government was in a position to allow the "leaks" of P82 to trickle down to the masses.

Special quota

Ms Arroyo also disclosed that the student loans and scholarships should focus on students taking agricultural and fisheries courses, and there should be "a special quota" for the 18 poorest provinces: Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga del Norte, Maguindanao, Agusan, Abra, Davao Islands, Lanao del Sur, Northern Samar, Masbate and Misamis Occidental.

"There should also be a quota for those provinces which do not belong to the 10 poorest provinces but are part of the 18 most food-poor provinces," she said, referring to Agusan del Sur, Antique and Surigao del Sur.

40 schools

The "Safe for All" program provides interest-free loans to cover expenses for tuition fees, books, course projects, thesis papers, board and lodging, graduation fees and other educational expenses.

Under the program, the President, through the CHED, will provide 44 prequalified institutions composed of 25 state universities and colleges and 19 higher education institutions with P500,000 each for the program.

The 44 institutions will determine who among their students will receive 50,000 each per semester representing the maximum loanable amount from the program.

10 years to pay

Upon graduation, the student will have 10 years to pay the total amount to the school from which he or she graduated.

Ms Arroyo yesterday distributed 13 of the 44 checks earmarked for the education at institutions to include the Batanes Peninsula State University, Bulacan State University, Bataan Peninsula State University, Ifugao State College of Arts and Trades, Ilocos, Marikina Polytechnic College, Pampanga Agricultural College, Philippine State College of Aeronautics, NTC-TOG Maritime Academy, Technological University of the Philippines, Norte Technical-Vocational Foundation College of Leyte, STI College, University of Manila, AMA Computer University, Polytechnic University of the Philippines and New Era University. With a report from Jerry E. Esplanada

Olivares found guilty in first of 48 libel cases filed by The Firm

For page 4 ▸

P4,000 as a libel fine.

The libel case was filed by CVC Law and E Arthur Villareza based on Olivares' article titled "Firm's partners ensure victory for AESA" and published in the Tribune on June 28, 2003.

CVC Law, formerly Villareza & Angangco Law Offices and also known as "The Firm," used to count the First Family among its clients and yesterday (Jun 5) endorsed the guilty verdict on Olivares "in the first of 48 cases of libel we have filed against her."

In the article, Olivares said the law firm's lawyers "are well-placed in Malacañang, with three already entrenched in the judiciary."

Dressed in a brown suit, Olivares quietly stood beside her counsel Alexis Medina as the verdict was read.

She said arguments later that she had expected a conviction from the court and that she was not cowed by it.

"It's clearly an injustice. When was written there was no libel," she said. "Why should it close on dismal? I'm definitely not guilty of libel. Why should it affect the Tribune's operations?" she also asked. "Why should I cry?"

Medina told reporters that while he and his client were "discouraged by the decision of the court," they would file an appeal.

Plazco project

"We believe that by filing a motion for reconsideration before the appellate court or the Supreme Court, my client will be found not guilty," the lawyer said.

In her article, Olivares wrote that then Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo had tapped lawyers "connected" as The Firm or handle a complaint by its client, Asia's Emerging Dragons Corp., against the winning bidder for the build-operate-transfer contract for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

Olivares subsequently ran a series of articles alleging that Villareza committed "illegal and reprehensible acts amounting to bribery and violation the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act" in connection with the scrapped Nait 3 project.

The articles claimed that Mr. Ionics had contracted $20 million from the German firm Plazco Inc., foreign partner of Philippine International Air Terminal Co. (Piatco) in the project, in exchange for solving its legal troubles. The German firm had a falling out with its Filipino partner.

The Nait 3 contract was nullified by the Supreme Court on May 3, 2003, for being contrary to public policy and disadvantageous to the government.

In his decision, Dumayas pointed out that Olivares' article was "derogatory to the persons of the private complainants."

"The title alone already imputes to the complainants deceit and dishonesty and the manipulation of government agencies to the benefit of AESC ... The complainants were considerably subjected to an having a hold on the Arroyo administration's legal arena, who have pervasive power and influence in the country's judiciary," part of the decision read.

Dumayas also said Villareza et al. were "no doubt exposed to public contempt and ridicule."

He said Olivares did not exercise efforts to verify the truth of her derogatory statements before publishing the article.

No proof of malice

Olivares, however, maintained that the prosecution was not able to prove libel or malice in the 48 articles in the Tribune.

"The private prosecutor did not prove malice. Where I went, find that everything I wrote was true, it wasn't rebutted by the prosecution," she said.

Her lawyer, Medina, asked Judge Dumayas in court to allow Olivares to post bail for her provisional liberty pending the filing of the appeal. He said the usual recommended bail for libel was P10,000.

Replied Dumayas: "Perhaps the court will just increase the bail. As to the accused being a flight risk, the court will not buy that book, line and sinker. The accused is no ordinary journalist."

The judge had yet to specify the bail amount at press time.

HERE COMES THE JUDGE Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 139 Judge Winlove Dumayas finds Ninez Cacho-Olivares guilty of libel on Thursday.

'Not the money'

CVC Law counsel Miguel Jose and the firm wanted "to hold [Olivares] accountable for the 48 other cases."

"The damages are incalculable. He is in as there is damage in our reputation. It's not about the money," he said.

Rodel Cruz, a partner of CVC Law, said the firm would donate the P5-million in moral damages to the Philippine Press Institute for a "legal defense fund."

Cruz said the fund would be made available to "journalists facing "to no longer bar lawyer."

"That said, we hold press freedom as one of our core values. However, press freedom, like all other rights, is not absolute," Bunye said.

He added: "The power of the press must be wielded with responsibility. It must never be used to destroy reputations, especially when private individuals are involved." Michael Lim Ubac

Bunye: Press freedom not absolute

AIRED TO COMMENT ON the libel conviction of Ninez Cacho-Olivares on charges lodged by "The Firm," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that press freedom, while valued, was not absolute.

"Sino ba ang may record keeper," Bunye said, President Macapagal-Arroyo "has not consulted The Firm for many years."

He also said E Arthur Villareza "is no longer her lawyer."

"That said, we hold press freedom as one of our core values. However, press freedom, like all other rights, is not absolute," Bunye said.

He added: "The power of the press must be wielded with responsibility. It must never be used to destroy reputations, especially when private individuals are involved." Michael Lim Ubac

Ubac

Ubac

CONCESSIONAIRES' MANDATE

Completion of Metro sewerage system urged

Jocelyn R. Uy

THE ENVIRONMENT department yesterday urged sewerage concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad to push the commencement of 94.4 percent of Metro Manila's population to a sewerage system to arrest the continuous deterioration of water resources surrounding the metropolis.

"There remains liability to provide sewerage system in their concession areas in Metro Manila becomes urgent and extremely necessary with the serious degradation of water quality of Manila Bay, Pasig River and the Laguna Lake," said Environment Secretary Lito Atienza in a statement yesterday.

Manila Water caters to 5.1 million residents in the east zone of the capital, including the cities of Makati, Pasig, Mandaluyong, Marikina and some portions of Quezon City, Manila, San Juan, Taguig and Rizal.

Maynilad, which has about 700,000 billed water services, covers the west zone of the capital, including a city and five towns of Cavite.

Atienza said only 5.6 percent of Metro Manila households are connected to a sewerage system, while the rest empty their wastewater directly to these bodies of waters.

He added that 90 percent of domestic wastewater discharges in the metropolis were inadequately treated.

"Maynilad and Manila Water are making all Metro Manila residents contributors to water pollution with added fatwas. This failure to fulfill their obligation," Atienza said.

The environment chief warned those clients of these two water concessionaires have been paying sewerage fees monthly "for a treatment of yours none."

COPYTRADE

2%CAR/TRUCK LOAN

SUNBRIGHT TOURS & TRAVEL

Most Complete Line of Cleaning Equipment
P3,700
P39,500

UP Centennial fete to hit high point this month

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, newly-lauded as the country's national university, brings its centennial celebration to new heights as it embarks on a series of high-profile activities to, here, its foundation month.

Proclaimed by Philippine legislature on June 18, 1908, UP marks its 100th year of existence with UP birthday rites on June 18, tapped off by a meaningful flag raising ceremony, a centennial program and a "Hail, UP Oblation" photo exposition of 100 made symbols of excellence.

The June 18 commemoration kicks off a series of celebratory events leading up to June 21, the day of the grand Centennial Alumni and Faculty Homecoming which will be held at the Araneta Coliseum.

108 nudes

On June 16, 19 and 20, a series of concerts and performances featuring UP's artistic and performing talents will be held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Called "Pamanang Hiraog" (Beloved University), the presentations will be directed by Dr. Alexandra Cortes.

On June 19, an exhibit called 108 Nudes / 108 Years, featuring masterpieces of the great nudes in Philippine art such as Fernando Amorsolo, Hernando R. Ocampo, Victorio Edades, Jose Moran and national artist Napoleon Abueva will open at the Ateneo Center in Cebu, Quezon City. The exhibit also features nudes in charcoal and pastel done on the spot by veterans and contemporary UP artists. A coffee table book featuring choice works in the exhibit will be launched at the event.

Mini colleges and unit homecomings will also take place within the month, highlighted by a UPAA General Assembly and Chapter Meeting on June 28.

The Grand Alumni and Faculty Homecoming at the Araneta Coliseum on June 21 will be a fitting centennial commemoration of UP's history peppered with performances from UP dance troupes, singing groups and jubilarian classes. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Forty-five distinguished alumni led by Most Distinguished Alumnus Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno, BSJ '62, LLB '92 will receive awards during the Grand Alumni Homecoming.

SANYO

SANYO VRF - ECO-I SERIES

acer

Acer Festival @ Gilmore

ICSEC KAPLAN

USMLE

Broadening Opportunities Worldwide

Listening in Style AMAZING entertainment

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, June 6, 2008
9th Week in Ordinary Time
Workers

1st Reading: 2 Tim 3:10-17
Gospel: Mk 12:35-37

As Jesus was teaching in the Temple, he said, "The students of the Law say that the Messiah is the son of David. How can they say this? For David himself, inspired by the Holy Spirit, declared: The Lord said to my lord: sit at my right until I put your enemies under your feet. If David himself calls him Lord, in what way can he be his son?" The people crowd on to see and listen to him gladly.

Commentary

The words spoken by Jesus were compelling, and many came to follow Him through the power of His message. They have encouraged us as to the Holy Bible so that we might also learn to live and be guided by His message.

Through the daily discipline of reading the scriptures we draw near to divine wisdom. It has been said that many who are scriptures are proclaimed they are heard for the very first time. May your keeping of the Bible close help you to be ever more attentive to God's Word. And finally will to your life.

Panasonic YAMAHA

VISITING OLD FRIENDS

Anwar to see 3 ex-presidents

MALAYSIAN OPPOSITION leader Anwar Ibrahim will be meeting three former Presidents during a two-day visit here this week.

Anwar, a former deputy prime minister who was jailed for five years on corruption charges, arrived yesterday.

He will address a forum on "Islam, Politics and Prospects of Peace" today at the ICDC Plaza in Makati.

He will also be meeting with former Presidents Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada, considered a long-time friend.

In brief remarks at the airport, Anwar said Estrada had invited him to return to the country after his last visit here eight months ago.

"I'm here to see him for the first time after a long break," Anwar said of Estrada with whom he struck up a friendship during Estrada's shortlived presidency.

Margaux Salcedo, Estrada's spokesperson, said the two are "very close, their lives are like parallel lines." She said Anwar was here mainly to visit "an old friend."

Anwar, considered one of Malaysia's most charismatic leaders, was thrown out of office in 1998, ordered arrested by then Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and convicted of abuse of power and sodomy. He was freed in 2004 after Malaysia's highest court overturned the sodomy conviction.

Estrada was put under "rest house arrest" for corruption in 2000. He was last year convicted on plunder charges and sentenced to 40 years in prison but was pardoned by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Salcedo said Estrada was "very happy and excited that they will see each other again after a few years."

She said Anwar tried to visit Estrada at his Tanay rest house during his last visit but was not allowed to do so by the court.

Anwar, who is accompanied by his wife Azizah, said he has meetings scheduled with Aquino and Ramos. Tarra Quismundo

VISITING FRIENDS. Former Malaysian deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim and wife Azizah are all smiles upon their arri

Migrante hits 'cover-up' of Jessa affair

By Jovanie Aning

THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO GROUP Migrante has accused the Department of Foreign Affairs of whitewashing the case of "Jessa"—the repatriated overseas worker who was repeatedly held hostage by her Saudi Arabian employer and raped by four men.

Migrante officials, who had exposed the alleged abuses against the overseas domestic worker, said Wednesday they believed it was a "cover up," that the maid was forced to sign a document in Arabic...in the presence of a DFA official—moments before she was finally repatriated to Manila on May 28.

Migrante deputy secretary general Lani Ibañez also complained that the group's Middle East coordinator, Julie Leonard Mercurio, had received death threats after he relayed the plight of the maid to media.

He called on the Senate to conduct an investigation of Jessa's ordeal and the threats made against Mercurio in relation to the government procedures to deal with OFWs in distress.

After the story of "Jessa" spread, Sen. Loren Legarda delivered a privilege speech demanding that the DFA conduct an inquiry and rescue the girl. The DFA did manage to repatriate "Jessa" but they have cited an affidavit that she signed, stating that she was not raped or abused by her employer in the eastern province of Qatif, some 700 kilometers from the Riyadh.

According to DFA, Jessa said that the allegations were "fabricated" and were products of her "imagination," and that all she intended was to facilitate her return to her family in the Philippines. She also acknowledged in that statement her receipt of her salary amounting to 4,700 riyals, and expressed her gratitude for the embassy's assistance which sent a team to Qatif.

Never interviewed

But Migrante Metro Baguio chapter said they were told by Jessa's husband that his wife was never interviewed by DFA officials about her ordeal.

"The embassy officer had supposedly gone to the Qatif police, which summoned the employer on May 26 to present the OFW. The employer agreed to let her leave and to shoulder the repatriation costs.

"But [Jessa's husband] said his wife was only told to sign a paper in Arabic, which she did not understand, and was not even interviewed by embassy official or advised of the documents' contents. The issue now is not the reasoning by the victim of her allegation of rape, but rather whether or not the government is truly serving OFWs in distress," Ibañez added.

"It seems that this was an excuse at all [on] an attempt to dupe the victim and silence her. What is sickening is that, if all these allegations are true, our embassy officials and the DFA would rather cover up the case rather than seek justice for a Filipino citizen. At best, the DFA is inutile; at worst, betrayers of public trust," said Fiona Beltran, coordinator of Migrante-Cordillera.

The husband reportedly told Migrante in a text message that Jessa "signed the documents under duress because she felt that her signature would mean immediate escape from her distressed situation."

Meanwhile, Mercurio said that on the same day that Jessa was released, he received two separate calls on his mobile phone from two persons who claimed to be working with a local newspaper based in Jeddah.

"They were asking me about the press statements we had made regarding the worsening plight of fellow OFWs in the Middle East; both were trying to implicitly defend the Philippine Embassy's inefficiency and neglect in attending to cases of OFW abuses," Mercurio said.

Government Warning
is dangerous

Puerto hosts environment day fete

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The Philippines fittingly marked World Environment Day yesterday in this city acknowledged as the country's "most environment-friendly."

Delegates from various parts of the country led by Ed Marcilla Reyes, WEE chair emeritus, participated in the four-day event which is being celebrated simultaneously around the world under the theme: "Handshakes And Hugs (Around The World) For Earth Dynasty In The New Millennium."

"Ito Puerto Princesa ang isa-isahin ng WEE to the country's contribution to the global community's efforts to cool down the overarm of all people who live in seven continents of the globe.

In making the celebration worldwide, organizers hoped to raise awareness that "no foreign city" exist, as all are citizens of the planet; that everyone must take responsibility for the environmental destruction wrought by many; and the urgency of implementing measures "to save and heal, conserve and reuse our Mother Earth."

British Ambassador to Manila Peter Buckingham in his message before hosting Puerto Princesa City after a two-day wedding visit, expressed optimism over the country's holding of World Environment Day. "It is very appropriate on World Environment Day that Puerto Princesa in particular is supporting this initiative," he said.

Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn, WEE co-chairperson, conveyed the great sense of pride and honor of Puerto residents and stakeholders in choosing the city once again as the venue of the WEE celebration.

"It was in 2002 when we first hosted this very important event, and many great things have happened in our city since then. I truly believe that volunteer-grand cleed we do for our Mother Earth, she gives it all back to us in marvelous ways," Hagedorn said.

In Manila, an environmental group took the occasion to call on lawmakers yesterday to pass urgent legislation that seek to ban plastic bags.

Members of the EcoWaste Coalition, which staged an advocacy walk for reusable eco-friendly bags in Quiapo, Manila, stressed that several nations including China had begun the fight against non-biodegradables by limiting production of such substances.

"Countries all over the world have taken notice of the plastic bag problem, with China ordering a tough restriction on the free distribution of ultra-thin bags to prevent pollution and urge on oil used to manufacture these bags. It's high time that the Philippines take action now," said Aster Lamata of the group's Task Force on Plastics. *With a report from Allison W. Lopez*

Like a bird, jailed Pinay 'flies' home

By Julie M. Aurelio

PURPLE LANE DEBRIEFING IN A JAPANESE DETENTION CENTER for illegal aliens, Marina Gonzenia begged she heavens to save her two-year-old daughter from being left motherless in Bulacan so that her dead son's grandchildren.

It's hard to describe a mother's grief. "In jail, I felt like I was about to lose my mind...My son was dead and I couldn't come home to see him to his grave," the 46-year-old Montesa said in an interview.

Marina finally got her wings on May 13 when she was freed to come home, six months after her 22-year-old son Jovic died in a motorcycle accident.

An article written last year by Jovic, a cum laude graduate from the Bacoor College, and published in the Inquirer, may have had something to do with her early release. His story which mentioned the plight of his mother, attracted the attention of sympathetic officials—among them Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and former senator Rene Saguisag.

Detained in a single block house and accompanied by her three surviving children, Marina paid a visit to Binay on Tuesday to thank him for following up her case and helping her come home.

Jovic's story

After Binay read Jovic's story to the newspaper last year, he wrote a letter to Ambassador Domingo Siazon requesting assistance for Marina's case.

Saguisag, a retired veteran lawyer, also appealed to the Department of Foreign Affairs to help the jailed Montesa get clemency.

"I have a very soft spot for stories like Jovic's, those who are missing their mothers but made it through school even with their mothers in a far away land," Binay told reporters.

He also learned of Jovic's death on the age of 22 last year and wrote the Philippine Embassy in Japan again to ask if the mother could be allowed to come home to attend her son's burial.

"But it wasn't allowed, so in April, Sisiosa told us that Marina might be freed any time now. We are thankful to the Japanese authorities for granting our request," Binay added.

2 years in jail

Marina returned to the country on May 13 after spending two years and two months in a detention center for illegal aliens at Tochigi-ken, some two hours away from Tokyo.

She first entered Japan in 1995 but was arrested in 2003 for using a different name.

After being given parole after two months in prison, Marina came back to the Philippines. But after eight months, she said her bank once more to Japan...until her second arrest in January 2006.

Though initially sentenced to three years and four months in jail, Marina was eventually granted a second parole by a Japanese court for her good behavior.

All in all, the mother of four worked 13 years as an illegal alien in Japan after her husband, who worked as a carpenter in Japan, was forced to come home because of an accident.

"It's so hard to be away in a strange land, far away from your loved ones. But I had to endure everything for their sake, to send them to school. I know what would happen when I entered Japan illegally ,pero eh, labanan ko na lang ang lungkot ko," Marina told the Inquirer.

She would occasionally get letters from her children, to which she would reply and tell them not to worry about her.

Proud of Jovic

Marina was particularly proud of her eldest son, Jovic, and keeps her son's articles, which were published in the Inquirer, with much pride.

Her other children were also doing well in school—Jacky 20, completed a nursing degree at the De Ramos University last year, while Jay-R, 18 and Jerose, 12, finished high school and elementary. But she missed attending any of their graduations.

Jovic even ran and won as a municipal councilor in Hagonoy, Bulacan.

Jovic died while on the way to check a reported burglary in their neighborhood.

News of Jovic's death in a motorcycle accident on Nov. 15, 2006 was relayed to her by the Philippine Embassy in Japan on Dec. 6.

"I was very sad. I could only send letters, but no money to help my family at that time," she testified.

Marina still finds it hard to accept the fact that her son died while she was away.

"It's hard to come to terms with [his death]. I couldn't help but cry when I saw his name on the tombstone," she said.

Marina said she would not go back to Japan.

"I have no plans of going back. Maybe I will request a small store I need to have in Hagonoy. I just want to be with my family here," she added.

PLUNGE INTO THE COLD.

g: Cigarette smoking
to your health

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2008

INQUIRER

Vol. 23 No. 182

OPINION

Joke! Joke!

A PARENTHETICAL HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL CASE that involved a Senate arrest order, an eventual visa cancellation by the US Embassy in Manila and high-profile deportation proceedings in the United States is not serious enough to merit the personal attention of the secretary of justice.

On Wednesday, Justice Secretary Raul "Bruce-to-Riff" Gonzalez professed ignorance about the Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante case—except, that is, on the lazy detail that prevents the extradition of the former agriculture undersecretary. "I don't know what's the recommendation of the Senate. Is it extradition? There's no case yet actually, except the Senate report, but I should see that committee report," Gonzalez told reporters.

Maybe he should. It was released more than two years ago, in March 2006, and recommended the filing of criminal and administrative charges against Bolante and other agriculture officials implicated in the P728-million fertilizer scam.

The scam was first brought to light during the 2004 presidential campaign, by Sen. Panfilo Lacson, himself a presidential candidate. In turn, the scam involved around the use of the fertilizers fund during elections season to survey fever with key officials across the country; it was, in Lacson's phrase, "virtual vote-buying" and therefore illegal. Any doubts that public may have had about the allegations vanished a year after the elections, when the Senate began its investigations into the scam. Bolante did not exile himself to appear at any of the hearings; he actively evaded the Senate summonses. On Dec. 15, 2005, two months after the inquiry commenced, the Senate cited Bolante to contempt and ordered his arrest.

Held a year later, Bolante was arrested in Los Angeles. He has filed the political asylum—from a country governed by an administration he served in and helped return to power. It is clear, however, that he is merely trying to avoid deportation, and eventual accountability for his role in the scam and his evasion of the Senate.

This is the sort of case that should exercise a justice secretary, and yet Gonzalez seems positively nonchalant. "It's difficult to move on something which we are not conversant about," he said the other day. Unfortunately, there is no cure for deliberate ignorance.

And it's on us

THE SECRETARY OF JUSTICE, RAUL GONZALEZ, banned his latest outrageous statement after the Justice committee of the Commission on Appointments vented—four years after he joined the President's Cabinet—its finally unanswered confirmation of his appointment.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson set aside years of vocal criticism of Gonzalez with a strained attempt at rationalization: He said he was recommending Gonzalez's confirmation because "a journey, no matter how long and hard, should reach the crossroads." Well, yes, but reaching the crossroads does not necessarily mean going ahead; it can also mean turning back. Lacson's metaphorical justification does not, in fact, justify acceptance.

Sen. Reggie Estrada carefully backed Lacson in praising Gonzalez: "I have noticed and monitored his work and his job as secretary of justice after he was discharged from the hospital. And I have noticed his remarkable performance as secretary of justice."

We agree: his performance has certainly been remarkable, but for all the wrong reasons. He has shown a breathtaking disinterestness in the administration of justice; he has eroded the people's faith in the very rule of law he is supposed to uphold. In a word, he politicized his office to an extent not seen in a generation. He has been the most partisan justice secretary since the democratic restoration in 1986—and he doesn't care if it shows.

Lacson and Estrada do not seem to understand that the reasons the so-called long arm of the law has failed to catch erring officials like fugitive "Joc-Joc" Bolante is precisely because partisan officials like Gonzalez have learned how to limit its reach. Now they're saying that because Gonzalez has had four years of practice at emasculating our institutions—a remarkable performance, indeed—he should be rewarded with a confirmation. This is all a bad joke, but unfortunately it's on all of us.

Publisher Isaac Rivera
Editor in Chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc
Managing Editor Jose Ma. D. Nolasco
Associate Editor Rolando O. Tolentino
Associate Editor for Reader Help Richard A. Gonzalez
Opinion Editor Juan V. Enrile
News Editor Arthur Y. Espiritu Jr. / Chief, Night Desk Operations Mario Franco
Chief, News Desk Day Cris Ruben C. Almazora
Weekend Editor Francisco D. Tantoco Jr.
Arts and Culture Editor Juan Gatbonton
Editorial Consultant Amando Doronila
Chief Photographer Jose U. Sonicat III
Art & Design Director Lorie A. Villegas

Board Chairman Marixi R. Prieto
President Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Edwin C. Rosales
Vice President for Finance Isaac R. Garcia
Vice President for Circulation Lucio Digna B. Tee

All rights reserved.

Why doesn't GMA help kidney patients?

(Continued from last Wednesday, June 4)

THE GOVERNMENT HAS NEGLECTED FILIpino kidney patients...and there are hundreds of thousands of them. But it is heeding policy to accommodate foreigners who are exploiting the poverty of Filipinos who sell their kidneys for a pittance.

Filipino patients need much less...dialysis treatments only—as they're still neglected by their own government.

As stated earlier, if your kidneys fail you have only two alternatives to stay alive: a kidney transplant or dialysis treatments three times a week. For a transplant costs from P1 million to P2 million, while an hour-long dialysis session costs an average of only P1,000. Except that dialysis treatments are for life, because the damaged kidneys can never recover.

But how many patients can afford a transplant? Besides, there is the problem of where to get a donor. Ideally, a donor is a close to the best option, but sometimes there are simply no relatives healthy or willing enough to donate one of their kidneys.

There are Filipinos who are so poor they would sell one of their kidneys for pennies. And because there are many, many so-poor Filipinos, transporting as "foundations" here, the Philippines has become notorious in the world for human organ trafficking. That is why foreigners come here for transplants.

"Cadaver donors" are a potential source of kidneys and other organs. Hundreds of thousands of humans die every minute. Imagine if their organs can be "harvested" for transplantations. They will only be wasted anyway...costing many in grave or funeral in crematories. Except that the law and social mores do not allow the harvesting of an organ from a dead human unless himself or his relatives give their consent. And 99.9 percent of them don't...because of selfishness and superstitious beliefs.

So maybe a law that would allow the harvesting of organs, provided the senate did not sign a veto forbidding it, can save a lot of lives.

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

And the senate might feel happier in heaven knowing that their organs have extended the lives of fellow humans back on earth.

But as I said, a kidney transplant is not the only way to extend the life of a person with kidney failure. There is dialysis. The machine makes the patient's blood...removes the poisons, fluid, toxins and excess fluids in it, and returns it to the body. The machine does in four hours what the kidneys can do in 48 hours.

Except that at P1,000 per session, three times a week, the cost comes to between P48,000 and P96,000 a month, excluding medications, injections and regular laboratory tests. In two years, you will have spent for dialysis what you would pay for a transplant.

Except, again, life is cut off that way after a transplant. Your kidneys is removed because you get prone to infections as you are given medications—for life—to suppress your immune system so your body will not reject your new kidney. Common ailments such as flu become dangerous infections. So you have to avoid crowds and public places. Or infections or complications after a successful transplant.

So what do you do if you have an active lifestyle or profession? Stick to dialysis—except that you can't travel for more than two days to places where there are no dialysis centers. Traveling to modern cities with many private hospitals is no problem provided you make reservations in advance.

But then, again, not many patients can afford the cost of dialysis. Many opt for twice a week instead of four to save on costs. But optimum results are achieved only with three-a-week treatments. Still many patients make do with twice a week because that's all they can afford. The government can help, but it doesn't.

You would think that President Macapagal-Arroyo would be more sympathetic to dialysis patients because First Gentleman Mike Arroyo himself underwent dialysis treatments when his kidneys failed when his heart operation. But she is not. Does the Malacañang Clinic is not big help: it is reputed to give free dialysis treatments, but the service is taken. It is almost impossible to get a slot. I intended to help a poverty-stricken kidney patients to be treated there. A former presidential chief of staff helped, but the red tape was so long that by the time the staff secured the slot for me in the clinic, the patient was dead. Since then, I have personally seen two other patients die because they could not afford the cost of dialysis.

Philhealth and private insurance policies do not cover dialysis treatment because patients are seen, technically, confined in a hospital—although the expense can be much more than the common hospital confinement.

And yet it is so easy and simple for the President—or Congress—to help them. With one stroke of the pen, she can declare it as Philhealth-compliant "if the tariff and rules of dialysis machines, supplies and medicines. The medical supplies—needles, catheters, dialyzers, etc.—are all imported (and therefore expensive) and can be used only once. One machine costs almost P1 million—and we need many more of them.

Why doesn't Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office donate ambulances to municipalities with no hospitals. (Where will the ambulances take the emergency patients?) The mayors and governors only use the ambulances to joyride in Metro Manila or to ship prohibited drugs from Manila to their provinces. So why doesn't the PCSO donate dialysis machines instead? It can help many more people that may instead of the opportunistic local government officials.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque told the Kapihan sa Manila Bay he will make these suggestions. Let's see.

Landlord-solons obstructing social justice

Commentary

Onni Hernandiyanto

HOUSE SPEAKER PROSPERO NOGRALES and his big landlord cohort should be held accountable if Congress fails to approve the passage of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) extension and reform bill (House Bill 4077) before funding for the program expires on June 30, 2008.

Farmers groups were heartened when HB 4077 was finally presented at the plenary level in first session before May came to a close. But former legislators such as Rep. Edcel Lagman, Rep. Eduardo Zosa and Bukidnon Party-List Rep. Nina Henteveroque Bunagsol delivered their sponsorship speeches in support of HB 4077. The bill was earlier approved by the House Committee on Agrarian Reform (CAR) as consolidated version of the bills on CARP extension with reforms.

HB 4077 contains significant reform measures such as the provision of subsidized credit for agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs), the recognition of women as program beneficiaries and the provision of greater government support services, the recognition of the indigenous ownership of ancestral domain (Republic Act 8371) and Certificates of Land Ownership Awards (CLOAs), upholding of department of agrarian reform's exclusive jurisdiction on agrarian disputes, the abolition of the legal counseling and interest of 6%, and the creation of a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee. It was a product of a long and extensive process of consultations conducted by the committee among agrarian reform stakeholders. In all the regional consultations conducted by the House Committee on Agrarian Reform, farmers groups and other agrarian reform stakeholders showed overwhelming support for the passage of the bill on CARP extension with reforms. The result of those consultations cannot be disregarded by anyone, least of all the senators and members of Congress.

But the jubilation is turning out to be short-lived. For on the same day, a copy of HB 3972, was circulated by some of the farmer groups. HB 3972 contains various anti-social justice provisions that are diametrically opposed to the passage of HB 4077 and block the enactment and implementation of the agrarian reform program. HB 3972 was filed by Rep. Pablo Garcia, together with other landlord-legislators such as Rep. Jose Solomon, Rep. Alfredo Marañon III, Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, Rep. Philip Pichay and Rep. Ramon Ongsiako VI, among others. Masquerading as a pro-farmer bill, the Garcia bill is actually promoting agricultural tenancy which has already been rejected by various administrations a long time ago. The Garcia bill is also pushing for the implementation of the Joint Venture Agreement, an agribusiness venture arrangement that would strengthen the control of big landlords over their lands and reverse the gains already achieved under the agrarian reform program.

This Garcia bill seems to indicate that Congressman, under the leadership of Speaker Nograles, has no sense of responsibility when it comes to issues affecting the most marginalized sectors of society. Nograles and his cohorts appear to have no appreciation of the social justice and social reform agenda. Instead of upholding a program that would benefit and uplift the lives of thousands of impoverished farmers, these supposedly honorable gentlemen seem to have chosen to remedy protect the interests of a few, collateral, big landowners.

In every step of the way and for each substantial reform in the process of the genuine implementation of the agrarian reform program, the big landowners in Congress, led by Representative Garcia, have been pushing up obstacles and hindrances. With a situation like this, the possibility of enacting the CARP extension with reform bill is becoming more hopeless as time is running out.

Earlier, Speaker Nograles promised the Catholic bishops and the farmers that he would help hasten the passage of the CARP extension bill and even include substantial reforms, but his failure to make good on his promise is clear. He has merely been paying lip-service to appease the seething anger of the farmers.

We really do not have to rebut lengthy this Congress would go to really pursue meaningful societal reforms. But one thing we are sure of is that despite Nograles' and his cohorts' attempt to be repeated there. A former presidential chief of staff helped, but the red tape was so long that by the time the staff secured the slot for me in the clinic, the patient was dead. Since then, I have personally seen two other patients die because they could not afford the cost of dialysis.

Philhealth and private insurance policies do not cover dialysis treatment because patients are seen, technically, confined in a hospital—although the expense can be much more than the common hospital confinement.

And yet it is so easy and simple for the President—or Congress—to help them. With one stroke of the pen, she can declare it as Philhealth-compliant "if the tariff and rules of dialysis machines, supplies and medicines. The medical supplies—needles, catheters, dialyzers, etc.—are all imported (and therefore expensive) and can be used only once. One machine costs almost P1 million—and we need many more of them.

Why doesn't Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office donate ambulances to municipalities with no hospitals. (Where will the ambulances take the emergency patients?) The mayors and governors only use the ambulances to joyride in Metro Manila or to ship prohibited drugs from Manila to their provinces. So why doesn't the PCSO donate dialysis machines instead? It can help many more people that may instead of the opportunistic local government officials.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque told the Kapihan sa Manila Bay he will make these suggestions. Let's see.

Onni Hernandiyanto is executive director of Centro Saka Inc.

Is the US ready for a black president?

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

IF THE BEGINNING OF THE PRIMARY ELECtions for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination in January, the American people faced a lengthy electioning season where they would be electing their black president or the first woman president in the history of their 233-year-old republic?

Last Tuesday, the Democrats settled the issue when they finished Obama poised to be elevated as the first black president by the nomination even as some the first black presidential candidate ever fielded by a major party. That eliminated Sen. Hillary Clinton from the race.

Obama clinched the magic number in the end of five months of historic fought Democratic primary contests. With only a breakthrough, Obama made history as the first black man to make a credible run at the American presidency. It confronts the American voters with an unfinished race issue, whether the United States is ready for a black president. Obama's victory is a test of the country from the end of the Democratic primaries to the primaries, the issue was simmering just underneath the surface, but its ugly aspects started to emerge and were glossed over in public debate. The American voters cannot avoid coming to terms with this issue when they go to the polls in November.

Steven Pearlstein, the Texas political analyst, writing in USA Today, says the Democratic primary "has ripped the scabs off two of the biggest 'taste' around society and racism." Maybe so now, Obama, who had more the important task of the race, which to change metaphors, is poised to explode in full force in the race after between Obama and Sen. John McCain, the presumptive Republican candidate.

The Washington Post/USA Today said that history would record Obama's primary victory "as both a monumental political upset and a dramatic statement from a party that was last thinking off its segregationist wing when Obama was born some 46 years ago."

It added: "Obama's success is testament to the remarkable success in American race relations that this Civil rights generation has made since the days King Jr. and other civil rights leaders, by black achievers in the worlds of business, sports and entertainment and presidents who appointed African-Americans of increasingly important positions, including two consecutive terms of state."

So listening the nomination last Tuesday Obama said a shouting audience of 17,000 in St. Paul, "Tonight, we mark the end of one historic journey with the beginning of another—a journey that will bring a new and better days to America." He continued, "America, this is our moment. This is our time to turn the page on the policies of the past."

Obama will be asking for the vote of the white majority in the demographic map in which the 58 million African-Americans in the United States make up only 13 percent of the population. The Associated Press has pointed out that "the challenge of Obama it is prove that Americans of all persuasions will judge a person by his or her politics and not by skin color." The Times noted that former Clinton aide spoke to point out that it was she, not

Hospitable even to terrorists

I AGREE PETE MANES. Already 9th are unfeelings in our own country (Inquirer, 5/17/08). But he never mentioned anything about what we Filipinos can do to change the situation. I nominate for quite someone with my friends of Immigration. I have seen how stupid it is for our country to continue having an open-door-like-this.

Everything is for sale. Remember the terrorist whose capture is worth millions of dollars to the United States, but who was escorted in the airport, using a Philippine passport, for P40 million? Nothing happened to the case.

Our country is the training ground of international terrorists. The cultural haven of wanted foreign nationals, the best place to manufacture deals, etc. Mohammad Atta, one of those who piloted the planes in the 9/11 bombing, was here a month before it happened. Blue-eyed foreign nationals are busy enjoying their happy "vacation."

Everything is for sale at our international airports. If you are an Indian national, and you want to hit a US guy, a visa at the airport is P250,000.

So, Mr. Manes, we are lucky to have these businessmen in our skyscraped offices. Most of them have no working visa, they don't pay taxes to the Bureau of Internal Revenue, and they are poor-loving people. We are lucky we have the likes of them. Mr. to the Philippines, you know, and we are very hospitable.

—GLEN SARMIENTO BALBOA
lu_mailbox@yahoo.com

DILG, PNP loath to help Pampanga gov curb 'jueteng'?

IT IS ONLY RIDE IN THE PHILIPPINES where a governor's request to the head for a police provincial director who can help him rid his province of gambling is being blocked by the interior secretary.

Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio has been asking for the assignment to his province of a police official who he believes will not succumb to the tempting offers of gambling lords. But Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno and the PNP chief, Director General Avelino Razon, are making up all sorts of alibis to deny his request.

Are they afraid of the lord of all jueteng lords? Or are they just observing an order of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is from that province, and the First Gentleman?

Something is very shameful here. But who's ashamed?

—RAFFY REYBOLDUG
rally_bipolito1000@yahoo.com

Palace double-talk

MOLAVENGY MAYOR BELLEVILL

I wish to comment on the news item "Palace mocks passing of Bolivian 'vital figure' in labor." (Inquirer, 5/13/08).

Would you buy that crap? Their sympathy? Rep. Crispin Beltran was a "vital figure," yes, to the labor sector. But in Malacañang, he did was simply an "irritating figure."

Malacañang has treated itself into a Palace and office of demagogues. If there are people who will not mourn the death of Ka Bel, Malacañang will be the first, for sure. I believe they were more relieved than sad about what happened.

—LILIA BAUTISTA
317 Gumia St.,
Kamias Road, Calbayan City

Members being penalized for GSIS fault

I WOULD LIKE TO CALL THE ATTENTION of the management of the Government Service Insurance System regarding the problems of its members when they deal with the agency I would like to cite, in particular, the posting of contribution and loan payments.

"No posting" or "very delayed" posting results to surcharges and penalties for GSIS members, but the fault lies in the GSIS. And a member who wants to ensure his or her loan, if, caught up in this problem, cannot remember. I do not know what computer system or program the GSIS is using. I understand the posting is done in the GSIS main office.

Yesterday I went to GSIS Batangas City to inquire about my Conaloan which was granted on Oct. 18, 2007. A private call me Oct. 18, 2007. A private call of my "Conaloan Outstanding Balance Inquiry" stating that no payment has yet been made, and my total balance has gone up to P282,730.86 from P266,597.40. But since December 2007 to April 2008, my agency has deducted from my salary the required monthly amortizations and remitted the deductions to the GSIS branch in Batangas City. Who is responsible for this failure to post my payments?

I am not the only one with this kind of problem. You can ask other government employees, including those who have retired, and they will tell you not only about this problem but also about others [regarding pensions, dividends, etc.].

Another problem is the posting of a member's data under a wrong branch code. The result: he or she will not see his/her record of loans in the GSIS PRONTO and member.

I hope that the GSIS can explain their posting system.

—BONIFACIO, BOBBA
Tolentino Office Batangas City

Computers can't err

THIS IS A REACTION TO THE SATIRICAL JOKE that appeared on the front page of the May 25 issue of the Inquirer. It appears that a computer was blamed for a page numbering error. As a professional who creates, develops, studies and uses computer technologies, I just want to say two things in defense of both humans and their creations:

1. Only human (sentient, breathing and biologically reproducing organic) beings are capable of committing errors (either through ignorance or incompetence).

2. Machines are not capable of committing errors by themselves. They will do what their human operators tell will them to do (i.e., the garbage in-garbage-out adage).

Here is a different scenario but using the same excuse: Somebody randomly swings an ax into you, then severing your arm, and then he conveniently makes an excuse by saying, "sorry, it's an ax error."

It should not be very easy for us, as moral and noble individuals, to conveniently blame some inanimate human creations that cannot conveniently defend themselves. As a good example to our political leaders, we should be rather honestly saying, "my bad, man, my bad."

—JAIRUS B. PARCO,
Institute of Computer Science,
University of the Philippines
Los Baños, College (4031), Laguna

Gov't is doing right in monitoring Meralco

THE EDITORIAL "BOMBING MERALCO" (Inquirer, 5/16/08) contained insinuations and accusations that were most unfair to our government. The business in its editorial writer presumably knows how to understand and interpret the complex financial of the birth of a Meralco bill, otherwise the newspaper will not be castigating the government for its actions.

For just this once, let us hope that every Filipino will accept at last value the government's present initiatives to curb the increases in energy prices, because except for some unnecessary costs, there is nothing yet to prove the existence of a hidden agenda.

Meralco is a public utility that has been operating for decades as a monopoly. It should be regularly and closely monitored by the government for possible wrongdoing and inefficiencies.

Both the government and the Government Service Insurance System have the right to inspect the books of the company, this is for the benefit of the consumers who have no access to the books or knowledge (about the rates) beyond the comprehensible billing statements that they receive every month. If there is hoarding of profits through power purchase agreements with supplier, the management can be guilty of cheating their stockholders.

And, if the management is guilty of irregularities, it cannot simply escape by withholding its shares. It has to be prosecuted for its wrongdoings. Every additional centavo that poor Filipinos pay for electric power deprives them of that extra grain of rice on their tables.

—ROBERT KING,
khany7785@yahoo.com

Drive vs abusive cab drivers hailed

THIS IS IN RELATION TO THE NEWS ITEM "Makati cops go after abusive taxi drivers." (Inquirer, 5/26/08) I was very happy to read that story and felt relieved as a victim of abusive taxi drivers. I appreciate and praise the initiative of the Makati Police Station Traffic Enforcement Branch (MSTEB). Finally, there's something being done to protect taxi riders from the "mistabulos" cab drivers and to lump our tourists in charcy looking good and inviting.

Every time I'm here in the Philippines, with my foreign partner, I always encounter nasty taxi drivers who cause me and our tourists a lot of embarrassment. Once I was dropped [illegible] in a trip from Pan Pacific Hotel Ortigas, Manila, to Mandaluyong. I guess they do worse to foreigners. On another occasion, while waiting near Rustan's Supermarket in Ayala, I saw a taxi driver refuse to give the couple in front of us a ride and called for reinforcement.

I felt bad for the couple and I requested taking that taxi because we were in a hurry at that time to reach our destination.

He took the OUTER concern. May God bless you and your good deeds!

—LAUZI BACANIN,
lady_lou@hotmail.com

Across the NATION

Street protests vs rice costs start

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—CHILDREN OF STREET vendors joined their parents in a noise barrage here Wednesday to express their dismay over not being able to go to school because of high prices of rice.

"We can't continue attending school anymore because our parents' income are only enough to buy rice," said one placard held by a 9-year-old boy, who stopped going to school.

The protest was held even as Mayor Constantino Jaraula announced that the National Food Authority (NFA) will soon sell rice to villages to ease the spree to market-hiked NFA rockets.

Members of the Coalition for the Bongabitan and Bongsanon-anon of Street Vendors Association (Cbsva) said despite the assurance from government officials on the availability of cheap rice, they staged the noise barrage because palen continued to soar.

Some few vendors are now bringing sold for P50 per kg here.

Dangling empty pots and shouting "We are going hungry!", vendors urged the government to release funds for rice subsidy and blamed corruption for their misery.

Elle Mesia, Cbsva's chair, said at least 20 percent of the group's members will stop sending their children to school this year because most of their day's income is only enough to buy rice for two meals.

"Education has become our least priority. We only earn more or less P100 per day and half of that is spent to only 1 kilo of rice. There's just not enough money to send our children to school," he said.

The Department of Education regional office has not released official enrollment figures but parents enrolling their children in the City Central School here observed a low turnout.

"Many of my neighbors did not enroll at least one of their children," said Rebelin Dumayan, mother of a Grade 3 pupil.

Teachers said some pupils who they were expecting to enroll again enrollment did not come.

But they said there was still time to enroll next week and other pupils may just be waiting for the last day before they list up for the school year.

In Cotabato City, the NFA said it will start flooding the markets with cheap government rice this week to pull down the prices of commercial rice.

Similar moves were also being done in Southern Mindanao, a rice producing region where prices of commercial rice had gone past the P50 level in recent days.

But while prices of commercial rice were skyrocketing, organic rice was being sold in Davao City for P25 per kg.

At the 5th Street Café, which sells organic rice, the queue was surprisingly short, unlike to NFA stores.

"I like the rice here. It's cheap compared to the rice sold at the stores and at SM's malls. My grandchildren also like the taste of the rice here ... the store owner told me that it's chemical free," 67-year-old Carmen Diarito, a rice eatin vendor from Siril district, said.

Tina Bellosa, marketing officer of the Sustainable Integrated Area Development in Mindanao Convergence for Asset Reform and Regional Development (Siad-Ismard), said more and more people have discovered organic rice.

In another store selling organic rice—the Sitio Dynamo Health Food Center—the demand for organic rice has also exponentially increased since the price of conventional rice soared.

LONG SHADOWS form at a queue for government-subsidized rice, a scene now familiar in many parts of the country as the poor try to survive escalating prices of food. MANUEL TRINIDAD

May Palicias, store keeper of Sitio Dynamo, said from June 1-5, they have already sold about 100 bags of rice, or close to a month's rice consumption.

"There was really a significant increase because of the affordability of the rice we are selling. And people are also starting to recognize the importance of eating organic rice," Palicias said.

Sitio Dynamo, along Quimpo Boulevard here, is being run by the Don Bosco Foundation for Sustainable Development, Inc. (DBFSD), a nongovernment organization promoting organic farming in Mindanao.

Tom Villarin, executive director of the find-itinerant, explained the low prices.

"The inputs did not go up—like the organic fertilizer which is only P5.00 per sack. The seeds that are traditional are kept by the farmers and the communal irrigation in the upland farms did not need irrigation," Villarin said.

In Davao del Sur, a farmers' group lambasted the Department of Agriculture (DA) for blaming farmers for the soaring rice prices.

Mr. Gerlie Rodriguez, Charly Ardana, Orlando Jilay, Jeffrey Bajera, Jhojo Romero, Chris Pangcoban, Ms. Gerlie Rodriguez, Agaba Zeida and Elda S. Aguirre with a report from Estelle A. Bonilla, Inquirer Mindanao

Boycott of veggies grown in mossy forests launched

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BACOLOD CITY—BUSINESSMEN LISTE OF Benguet are mounting a boycott of salad vegetables grown on farms that have displaced some of the province's vital mossy forest cover.

Kenneth Belibet, member of the Kabayan mummies that hosts the region's only mummies, said gardens have again sprouted around Lazon's second highest peak, Mt. Pulag, destroying forests that serve the watershed lakes around Benguet and Ifugao.

Belibet started the campaign using text messages: "Dear friends and fellow environmentalists. Let us stop buying products taken from the wild and from our watersheds. Let's boycott them, including the vegetables coming from our Mt. Pulag watershed."

"They [have been] cleaning the mossy forests and mountains lakes in Barangay Tabeo and Eddet in Kabayan town, Barangay Ambiong in Tuba town, Barangay Tawang in Itogon town, Ifugao," Belibet said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) had anticipated that opportunists would take advantage of the land crisis by destroying more forests to build new farms.

The logging documented once such activity in May at Tabeo. Emboldened by the daylight, 30 people battled a check of the forest and squeezed the surviving trees of the barred stumps.

Strip farming in Kabayan requires garden areas to be terraced. Farmers in Tuba, however, flatten hillsides creating very steep slopes before they farm.

Samuel Dolufil, DENR-Cordillera director, had sentenced quick response teams this week, after witnessing the destruction of the forests last week. The DENR's attention was also called by Amoslan experts, who investigated the re-discovery there of a variety of cloud rat that had disappeared for decades, said Marcos Villanueva, DENR public information officer.

He said the experts took note of the fact that farmers use chemicals to speed up agricultural growth, further damaging the mossy forests.

"The mossy forests act as sponge because they absorb moisture that is collected by lakes or rivers. That is the water that feeds down to the rice terms. This is the water that irrigates the Ilocos region," Villanueva said.

"I would join [Belibet's] boycott. I was sent to document the condition of the mossy forest [in the early 1990s], and it was clear that the damage has been grave," he said.

The DENR is also demanding support from local government units.

"They have resumed to build roads that lead to the mossy forests. The roads help develop a market for farmers who destroyed the forests and they would not have done this without the support of some officials," Villanueva said. With a report from PV Espiritu, Inquirer Northern Luzon

LASER SHOT Canon Delighting You Always

The Canon Wait Loss Program:

STEP 1: Ultra-Quick First Print
STEP 2: Zero Warm-Up Time
STEP 3: Superior Data Processing

EVAPORATIVE AIRCON
SAVE more than 80% on your Aircon bill
SALES / RENTAL
Daily · Weekly · Monthly

RENTAL
GREPAC TECHNOLOGIES INC.

TUNNEL VENT SYSTEM

MAXIMUM YIELD ON YOUR AGRO-AGRI BUSINESS
GREPAC GREEN TECHNOLOGIES INC.

Agusan del Sur public schools ignore DepEd ban on enrollment fees

SAN FRANCISCO, AGUSAN DEL SUR—Some public schools here continue to ignore the "no collection" policy of the Department of Education (DepEd) during enrollment, some parents said.

Some parents sought the help of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) local chapter to put a stop to the practice.

During the KBP Hour aired over station dxSK one woman said she was disgusted when a teacher refused to accept her only student—P15.0...because the amount needed to have her child enrolled was P275.

The mother and the teacher later agreed to accept the money but

Townsfolk show collective will in school repair

By Yolanda Sarzia-Fuentes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

CALASIAO, PANGASINAN—After tropical storm "Cosme" destroyed the six-classroom building of Bued East Community School in this town on May 17, teachers and residents were faced with the problem of where to hold classes when school opens on June 16.

Many school buildings in Pangasinan were destroyed by the storm and the program of the Department of Education promoting the rebuilding of the village school in time for the opening of classes was near no-good.

But instead of sulking and waiting, the Bued community looked into its "inner strength"—the residents, the business community and non-governmental organizations—so anybody can start classes as scheduled on June 16.

Bued village chief, Carlito Dizon, a graduate of the 40-year-old school, met with school principal, Edna Ecraleta, the teachers and some alumni agreed that they would contribute money as they could build even a single classroom.

Mon committed P5,000 and as the list was passed on, the funds grew.

Leaders calling other graduates of the tragedy that hit the school were sent by electronic mail to help solicit funds.

"We got a good response to the project. The school is the 'fatal' of Bued East and residents want to have a part in rebuilding it," Dizon said.

While the teachers, some of whom are graduates of the school, were meeting at the school grounds, owners of a branch of Tractor Motor Corp. in the town arrived.

Rommie Ong Jr. and Rene Sodomized materials in the Calasiao town government to help the reconstruction of damaged schools in the town but Mayor Boy Macalalay asked them to inspect three schools

A Grand Performance

owned her to give the required amount next time or her child would be denied enrollment.

Another woman presented to a reporter a receipt she got for paying P275.

The mother said teachers from the San Francisco Wes Central Elementary School insisted that parents pay the amount. Elvira Pempenillo, Inquirer Mindanao

After seeing how devastated the Bued East school building was and seeing how desperate the alumni and teachers looked, Ong and he said that instead of repairing the school building, they would donate two new classrooms instead.

The Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry also committed to build two classrooms here this year.

The provincial government is building two classrooms while Pangasinan Rep. Rachel Arenas has committed two more, according to Dizon.

On Monday, the construction of makeshift classrooms inside the covered courtyard in the school started, courtesy of the Sr. Divine Tesoro Foundation which donated P300,000 to buy construction materials.

Macalalay chair of the foundation's board, said the local government would provide workers to prepare the makeshift classrooms in four days.

"Parents are pursuaded to be present around the construction to shield the children from the sun and rain.

"We are thankful to God that with the help of everyone—the private sector, the government and residents—we will be able to overcome the big challenge of rebuilding our school," Tesoro said.

The new classrooms will be built at the back of the old building's ruins, which will soon be demolished.

The elementary school building in the nearby Calsibanban village was also destroyed by the storm.

While the local government and the Sr Divine Tesoro Foundation are building makeshift schoolrooms there, school and village officials are still waiting for help, said village chief Gregorio Ong.

In San Carlos City, Mayor Julio Resueello said the repair of classrooms in Barangay Mabalbalino has started "through bayanihan (free labor) among the residents."

Brawner declared 'true Ifugao' at burial rites

BAGUIO CITY—PRESIDENT TOBIAS bade farewell gift the late Commission on Elections Commissioner Rene Brawner could have ever hoped for in his funeral: was the affirmation that he was "truly Ifugao."

Brawner, who died from a heart attack last week, was buried on Wednesday at the Baguio City Cemetery shortly after his family was given a copy of an Ifugao resolution declaring the retired presiding justice of the Court of Appeals as a "true son" of the province.

Ifugao Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr., Brawner's nephew and his fiancé-officials presented the resolution to Brawner's widow, Leonor.

Brawner's official records place his birth in Solano, Nueva Vizcaya, but he had always described himself as Ifugao because of his roots in Banaue town where he finished grade school.

He was hailed as the CSC "highest ranking Ifugao" when he retired in 2006.

Comelec Commissioner Rene Sarmiento, classified and active judges, and city civil rulers attended the funeral Mass.

His casket was flanked by caped members of the Knights

CAPES and feathered axe heads worn by members of the local Knights of Columbus flank the casket of the late election commissioner Rene Brawner

of Columbus, who held up swords in his honor.

The officiating priests at the Mass described Brawner as "an instrument of peace."

They said Brawner believed that "if there is harmony in the family, there is harmony in the country, and if there is harmony in the country, there is harmony in the world." Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

VIOLENCE OVER GOLD

Vizcaya town becoming new Diwalwal, says solon

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The specter of violence in the upland village of Didipio in Kasibu recurs in a clear indication that the ore-rich area is now "becoming a Diwalwal," Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla said yesterday.

Padilla said he feared Thursday's murder of Positos Bagsolan, Didipio village chief, could trigger a wave of unsolved killings due to the unrest that was caused by the mining controversy in the area, similar to what happened in the Diwalwal mining controversy on Mt. Diwata in Monkayo, Compostela Valley.

"With the latest events that are happening right now in Didipio, there is little doubt that it would soon become the Diwalwal of the north, so to speak, if we do not do something about it," he said.

Bagsolan, 52, was shot and killed on Thursday night. His body was found the next morning by his daughter, Tenorey, on a cliff side near a foot trail, about 70 meters from their house in the sub-village of Pensumalo.

While police have not linked Bagsolan's murder to the controversy surrounding the planned operations of Australian firm OceanaGold Philippines Inc., many villagers in Didipio think the murder was among related, Padilla said.

"We suppose these unfortunate incidents among our people. You're threatening the promised benefits that mining will bring to our economy but since the mining company has arrived, what the people of Didipio have experienced so far are miseries, problems and tragedies," he said.

Bartolomeo Grant, OceanaGold vice president for communications and external affairs, disagreed with Padilla.

"We do not concur with Congressman Padilla's opinion and to date, we believe that it is a bit far-fetched. The Mt. Diwalwal situation has nothing at all in common with the Didipio project," he said.

"The police have expressed their views on several possible angles of the death (of Bagsolan) which they are looking at and we would rather limit our comments and views to truth," Grant said.

The Didipio experience, Padilla said, has also exposed the flaws in the country's mining law. He said this has since the need for a review, including the financial and technical assistance agreements (FTTA) issued to OceanaGold.

The House committee on cultural communities is investigating the cases of alleged abuses committed by two foreign mining companies in Nueva Vizcaya. It is scheduled to conduct public hearings in Didipio and Pico village, also in Kasibu, on Friday and Saturday.

Padilla also blasted Department of Environment and Natural Resources officials for being "overzealous" in promoting the interests of large-scale mining companies, and being "over-protective" of erring foreign firms.

Environment Secretary Lito Atienza, however, denied this.

"We [in the DENR] are not acting with the foreign investors; we are protecting the rule of law. When an investment is done according to the law, it should be protected by government," Atienza said the bayonet in a telephone interview.

He urged provincial officials to refrain from issuing statements that "could add fuel to the raging controversy" in Didipio.

"The sad fact of Bagsolan's is a direct byproduct of the inflammatory statements that Gov. Lucita Guzmana has been saying so that she can hasten her way to silence following the rule of law," Atienza said. —Melvin Gascon, Inquirer Northern Luzon

A MINER helps clear a tunnel in Diwalwal that collapsed recently in this photo taken in October 2005. —

TRADE-IN TRADE-UP

TO A BRAND NEW TONY PS3, PSP, PS2, NIN. WII OR NDS LITE

Promo Mechanics:

*Trade-in your old, working, non-working PS1, PS2 and any Gameboy Units to any participating Circuit City branches Nation wide.

*Choose the unit you want to trade up.

*Trade-in Trade-up customers may also purchase any accessories of their choice & get an automatic discount of 20%.

*Just fill-up the application form with your contact details and trade-in details

PARTICIPATING CIRCUIT CITY BRANCHES:

One School. 22 Global Campuses.

Enroll at Informatics and you've just got in to 130 Informatics schools in 22 countries around the world. No other school can be as global. In fact, Informatics students get to experience a truly global education after their second year when they go to a study tour in Singapore!

One of Asia's Biggest IT Schools.

informatics

www.informatics.edu.ph

Informatics Text Hotline: 0917-8233222

Marinduque suffers from pork shortage

BOAC, MARINDUQUE—LOCAL GOVERNMENT officials raised alarm over a shortage of pork in the province that has driven prices soaring to as much as P280 per kg.

Carlito Bobadilla, provincial director of the Department of Trade and Industry, confirmed complaints from consumers on the rising prices of meat products and the scarcity of supply in the province.

He said there was basis to believe that massive export of pork from the province to other provinces could be one of the reasons for the shortage.

In 2007, he said the province shipped out nearly 50,000 pigs and the figure "does not include those pigs that were illegally transported," according to Dr. Jesse Victoria, provincial veterinarian.

The official said traders preferred to buy from Marinduque because the province was FMD-free.

Victoria said illegal traders were contributing to the shortage of pork in the province.

The illegal traders, he said, were reported to be scrounging up pork in the towns of Gasan, Buenavista, Sta. Cruz, Boac and Torrijos.

"Hog raisers cross other provinces to sell their pigs to those who offer a higher buying price or they wait for traders coming to [from other provinces," said Grey Hapa, a hog raiser from Sta. Cruz.

Hapa said the high cost of inputs, particularly feeds, prompted hog raisers to sell their pigs outside the province for bigger profits.

The DTI suggested a price monitoring and regulatory council in every municipality be organized. *Gerald Leroy B. Quevedo, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

BATAAN SUNSET
The sun sets behind a lighthouse on a hill in Bataan.

SPREAD THE POWER

OF FAITH

OF HOPE

OF LOVE

SPREAD FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE

5/6+1 PowerLotto

What is POWERLOTTO?

The POWERLOTTO is PCSO's newest online lottery game. It is an exciting variation of the lotto and the digit games, which is intended to cater to the "A" and "B" class markets. The amount/price of ticket per standard play combination is PhP50.00 which could win a Minimum Jackpot Prize of PhP50-Million.

POWERLOTTO is patterned from America's favorite game, the PowerBall Lotto. At present, the PowerBall is being played successfully in 18 different countries such as:

USA	Luxembourg	Belgium
Australia	Portugal	France
New Zealand	Switzerland	Ireland
Israel	Italy	Serbia
Spain	Greece	Romania
Austria	Chile	United Kingdom

How is the POWERLOTTO played?

A player chooses five (5) numbers from a set of numbers from 01 to 55 plus one (1) "power number" from a set of numbers from 1 to 10.

This 5 + 1 combination that will correspond to the drawn winning number combination wins the jackpot which has a Minimum Jackpot Prize of 50-Million pesos.

POWERLOTTO 's prize structure for a Standard Play:

5 + 1	PhP50,000,000.00 (Minimum Jackpot Prize)
5 + 0	PhP700,000.00
4 + 1	PhP50,000.00
4 + 0	PhP8,000..00
3 + 1	PhP4,000.00
3 + 0	PhP600.00
2 + 1	PhP400.00
1 + 1	PhP100.00

When will the POWERLOTTO be available in the market?

This game will be drawn once a week together with the other regular lotto games lined-up every Tuesday. The launching of the POWERLOTTO is scheduled on June 2, 2008, the first selling day. The first draw is set on Tuesday, June 17, 2008 and every Tuesday thereafter.

Where are tickets sold?

The POWERLOTTO tickets are available in any Authorized Lotto Outlet Nationwide, at the PCSO Provincial District Offices, or at the PCSO Main Office at E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, in Quezon City.

Maraming Salamat po, and enjoy playing.

PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE

SPREAD THE CHARITY VIRUS

NEWSBRIEFS

■ DAVAO CITY

Plant 'malunggay,' school heads urged

THE Department of Education in Southern Mindanao has called on school superintendents and principals to use their administrative to plant malunggay (Moringa oleifera).

Susana Teresa Fulgoy, DepEd director, said it was aimed at turning Southern Mindanao into the country's "malunggay region."

Dr. Maritelorosa Plalos, regional DepEd medical officer, said on June 12, each school in the region will plant 50 malunggay trees.

Malunggay can also be used as tea or juice if its leaves are dried and powdered.

Arnulfo P. Roldan, Inquirer Mindanao

■ LEGAZPI CITY

3 troops slain in ambush

THREE soldiers were killed in an ambush by suspected New People's Army rebels in Barangay Bacabac in Magallanes town, Sorsogon province, 8:45 a.m. Wednesday.

Col. Ariel Bernardo, 901st Infantry Brigade commander, said the three soldiers were in civilian clothes, were tied when ambushed by seven to 10 NPA rebels.

In a mobile phone interview, Bernardo said they could not yet release the names of the victims but said their bodies have been recovered.

The soldiers, riding a single motorcycle, came from the town center to buy goods from the market and were on their way back to a military patrol base in Barangay Tula-Tula when ambushed.

Gabrielle Apolinario, Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ CEBU CITY

Geothermal plant shut for 9 months

TMC Northern Negros Geothermal Power Plant (NNGP) in Mailum, Bago City, shut down operations last week to allow the cleaning of its five wells.

Agnes de Jesus, Philippine National Oil Co. Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC), said the shutdown would last five more months.

The wells outside the 600- Kenkeni National Park buffer zone have to be cleared of mineral blockage so these could produce 15 megawatts to 17 megawatts, Ms. Jesus explained.

Although it has a capacity of 20 megawatts, the NNGP produced only 4.5 megawatts due to the mineral blockage, she said.

Carlo P. Evasco, Inquirer Visayas

DepEd execs say no uniforms good

EDUCATION officials welcomed an order by President Macapagal-Arroyo to bid to 1 pupils not to be required to wear uniforms.

Carolina Mendoza, regional DepEd director, said the order could help increase enrollment because it would encourage parents to send children to school despite lack of funds for uniforms.

Jeanne Rondaan, Inquirer Visayas

■ DAGUPAN CITY

Man killed in banana plantation clash

ONE fatal was killed when violence flared in the a banana plantation being claimed by a group of farmers in Mabalay, Sinuan del Sur, on Monday afternoon.

Senior Insp. Elmer Cabonilas, Mabalay police chief, said police were still investigating the clash between security guards of Alber to M. Soriano (AMS) Group of Companies and members of the Sinuan del Sur Farmers Association (Sasefa).

Sasefa claimed a claim over the 317 hectares of land being occupied by the hacienda company in November 2006.

Cabonilas identified the slain man as Agapito Villegas, 25, who was with the group of farmers.

Zeke S. Aquino with a report from Octavio Dy-ray, Inquirer Mindanao

Napocor files for power rate reduction

[illegible]

the order of the failure of Winston Garcia, president of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), to waive management control of Meralco from the Lopezes to lower its rates, the highest in the country.

To help ease the burden of high power rates, President Macapagal-Arroyo launched on Tuesday a P2.6-billion power subsidy program that will give a one-time subsidy of P500 to households using less than 100 kilowatt-hours a month.

Revisions in Napocor's basic generation rates for the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao grids were filed on Tuesday to take into account the shrinking of Napocor's power generation base as a result of the privatization of 42.7 percent of its capacity in Luzon and the Visayas.

The application, confirmed with those for the state firm's sister generation companies—Southern Luzon (SLGAB) and eight decentralized corporations—also sought the recovery of foreign exchange rate adjustment (forex) payables, would see Napocor's rates by 5.62 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh) in Luzon and by 8.09 centavos per kWh in Mindanao.

The rate for the Visayas, however, would increase by 15.91 centavos per kWh.

Nationwide, Napocor's effective rate would go down by 8.06 centavos per kWh.

The GRAM is a quarterly adjustment mechanism that allows utilities such as Napocor to recover costs associated with fuel and purchased power.

The forex is a quarterly adjustment mechanism that allows utilities to recover foreign exchange-related costs. A stronger peso usually means a reduction in rates.

The rates firm's effective rate in Luzon is currently pegged at P5.4896 per kWh in Luzon, P2.8843 per kWh in the Visayas and P2.5523 per kWh in Mindanao.

Flexible rates

Napocor also offers time-of-use (TOU) rates, or flexible hourly rates that are lowest during off-peak hours, or between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., and highest during peak hours, or from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays and holidays are also considered off-peak times.

Rates are also lower during the wet season, or from July to December, as electricity demand usually falls during this time due to the colder weather.

Consistent with ERC order

The filing for the revised basic generation rates is consistent with an ERC order for Napocor to apply periodically for rate adjustments, factoring in the sale of its assets, changes in load profile and plant mothballing.

Napocor said this particular application with the ERC only reflected the impact of the privatization of the 112-megawatt (MW) Pantabangan-Masiway hydropower plant in Nueva Ecija, 360-MW Magat hydropower facility in Isabela and 600-MW Mindanao coal-fired power plant on the company's operations.

"So mentioned in the ERC order, adjustments in the basic rate are proposed to be reflected in Napocor's rate in the quarter following the closing date of a power generation plant's sale," a Napocor statement said.

Considering that Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. had already sold 42.7 percents of Napocor's Luzon and Visayas generating capacity to private operators, this company believes that "[only] the need to file this application to reflect the true cost of electricity."

Sale of power plants

"As written in the application filed w the ERC, Napocor respectfully state that the privatization of the Pantabangan-Masiway, Magat and Mindoro (plants) would require an immediate adjustment in the existing Luzon grid average generation rate in order to reasonably recover the operating expenses of the remaining power plants under its control, as well as retain a reasonable return on rate base as authorized by the ERC," Napocor said.

Napocor said it did not consider the sale of some other power plants—all small hydropower facilities—in its calculations of the revised basic generation rate because its impact was "very minimal."

Automatic deduction

In Congress, Sen. Francis Escudero yesterday proposed that government's power subsidy be automatically deducted from the monthly bills of consumers.

"The best way would have been metered reimbursements based on consumer records of power distributors, where a certain amount, based on a formula, is automatically deducted from the monthly bill of power user that will meet the threshold, and the amount subtracted will be billed to the government which must settle it promptly," Escudero said.

He said "this approach would promote energy conservation as beneficiaries, in order for them to qualify for discounts, will struggle to keep within the range that will entitle them to relief." With a report from Cynthia D. Balana

GMA orders gov't agencies to save energy

By Michael Lim Ubac

BY NEXT MONTH, PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo wants all government buildings government offices replaced with energy-saving fluorescent lamps.

All agencies must also conserve their gasoline fuel vehicles to major fuel-efficient cars that run on liquid petroleum by September, according to the President.

In Administrative Order No. 228 issued on Monday, the President likewise ordered all government entities to save on transport fuel cost by a minimum of 10 percent starting this month.

To observe World Environment Day, Ms Arroyo yesterday made an official policy in her administration that saving fuel and electricity, saying it's an "economic imperative, moral duty and global obligation."

In a speech before students of the Ateneo "Sarung" Bonifacio Institute of Science and Technology in Manila, the President announced that starting yesterday, all government agencies and entities, including government-owned and -controlled corporations, had been directed to start electricity- and fuel-saving measures.

"Everyone in this nation, public and private, has an obligation to meet the needs of the nation as critical services like energy," she said.

She directed government offices to use "widely accepted practices and creative and innovative ways that can be employed in substantially lower fuel and electricity consumption."

"The era of cheap and plentiful fossil fuel, the source of much of our fuel, and a major generator of electricity in the Visayas and Mindanao, is definitely over. In this context, cutting down on fuel and electricity consumption is an economic imperative, a moral duty and a global obligation," Ms Arroyo said.

RP aid sought on 2 Chinese's disappearance

[illegible]

to look into the disappearance of their husbands.

Hong Chin Sum and Lau Yuet Quenna, the wives of Chang Min Ming and Hong Kam Chung, respectively, made an appearance at the Philippine consulate in Hong Kong on June 2 to affirm their request for an investigation of the purported abduction.

Soldiers or policemen

The women claimed that Chang and Hong were abducted either by soldiers or policemen.

Sources in the Philippine National Police, who asked not to be named for lack of authority to speak on the matter, told the Inquirer that the two men had been arrested on suspicion that they were drug dealers and members of crime syndicates.

Chang, then 33, was purportedly abducted on Diegon Street in Bacoodo, Manila, on Dec. 30, 1998, and Wong, then 32, in Emnan Village, Quezon City, on March 26, 1999.

It is not known whether they are alive or dead.

The women said they had earlier asked the Chinese government and the Philippine consulate to look into the purported abduction.

But Philippine investigators were then said to be holding evidence to prove that Chang and Wong were being monitored by Hong Kong and Philippine narcotics police from October 1998 to 1999.

Separate statements

The documents related to this investigation were never made available in the absence of a mutual legal assistance agreement.

In Hong Kong, Hong and Lau submitted to Philippine Consul General Alejandro Vicente separate statements detailing their husbands' cases. The Inquirer is holding a copy of each statement.

Hong said her husband went on a business trip to the Philippines and was never heard. She quoted a relative as saying that her husband was held in a Cavite camp by certain military officers.

Lau said that on May 4, 2000, the National Bureau of Investigation informed her that it had submitted to the Department of Justice an affidavit recommending the prosecution of persons involved in the disappearance of her husband.

"But up to now, no [here per se] is formed of what happened to the case," Lau said.

The two women said they were willing to cooperate in any investigation of their husbands' cases, including coming to the Philippines when necessary.

The women's requests were forwarded on June 4 to the office of PNP Director General Avelino Razon by the Department of Foreign Affairs, sources at Camp Crame told the Inquirer.

Criminal matters

The Philippines and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region—represented by then Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Security Secretary Regina Ip—signed the agreement on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters on Feb. 23, 2001.

The agreement covers such major kinds of assistance as serving documents, obtaining evidence, executing requests for search and seizure, transferring persons between the jurisdictions of Hong Kong and the Philippines to appear as witnesses, and tracing, restraining, forfeiting and confiscating proceeds and instrumentalities of criminal activities.

The Philippines has entered into similar agreements with other countries, including the United States, Indonesia, Australia, China and Switzerland.

HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION

Office of the President

NOTICE OF SALE

Please be informed that the following properties of the Home Guaranty Corporation are being offered for public bidding:

Item No.	Property Location	Type	Floor Area	Lot Area	Selling Price	Remarks
	FOR CEBU-DAVAO-ILOILO					
	CAVITE					
	CALAMBA/BIÑAN					
1	Blk 1 SE Capistrano, Brookside Lanscape Development, Cavite	RH	24.00	96.00	350,000.00	With illegal occupants
2	Blk 2 D. Silang, Brookside, Development, Cavite	RH	24.00	72.00	350,000.00	With illegal occupants
3	Blk 2 SE Capistrano, Brookside Lanscape Development, Cavite	RH	24.00	96.00	350,000.00	With illegal occupants
4	Blk 2 E Cng Homes, Brookside Lanscape Development, Cavite	RH	24.00	96.00	350,000.00	With illegal occupants
5	Blk 2 E Cng Homes, Brookside, Lanscape, Development, Cavite	LA	20.75	75.00	450,000.00	With illegal occupants
6	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
7	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
8	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
9	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
10	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
11	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
12	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
13	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
14	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
15	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
16	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
17	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
18	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
19	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
20	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
21	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
22	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
23	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
24	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
25	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
26	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
27	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
28	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
29	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
30	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
31	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
32	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
33	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
34	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
35	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
36	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
37	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
38	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
39	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
40	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
41	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
42	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
43	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
44	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
45	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
46	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
47	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
48	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
49	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
50	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
51	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
52	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
53	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
54	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
55	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
56	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
57	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
58	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
59	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
60	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
61	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
62	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
63	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
64	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
65	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
66	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
67	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
68	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
69	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
70	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
71	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
72	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
73	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
74	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
75	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
76	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
77	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
78	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
79	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
80	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
81	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
82	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
83	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
84	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
85	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
86	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
87	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
88	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
89	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
90	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
91	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
92	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
93	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
94	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
95	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
96	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
97	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
98	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
99	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
100	Blk 2 SE Gregorio Lane, Sta. Maldon, Development, Cavite	SO	42.00	84.00	1,176,000.00	With illegal occupants
	TANZA					
1	Blk 1 Lot Tanzanian Homes, Antipolo, Tanza, Cavite	RH	24.00	96.00	350,000.00	With illegal occupants
	TOTAL					

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION AT 888-88-00, 891-31-88 OR VISIT OUR HEAD OFFICE AT CAGE BLDG. NO. 108 SEN. GIL PUYAT AVENUE, MAKATI CITY.

(SGD.) RAFAEL P. DE LOS SANTOS
VICE PRESIDENT
ASSET DISPOSITION
AND CORPORATION GROUP

NEWS

Gonzalez sure Bolante will be deported

By Jerome Aning

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ YESTERday said he believed that former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante would be eventually deported by the United States and subsequently face charges in Manila in connection with the so-called P728-million fertilizer scam.

"We should probably assume that there will be no reprieve for him in the US, so he will have to be deported. I don't see any other recourse but for the authorities in the US to deport him," Gonzalez told reporters.

The US Board of Immigration Appeals recently affirmed the Chicago Immigration Court's deportation of Bolante, who was trying to seek asylum in the US on the claim that he was being politically persecuted in the Philippines.

Gonzalez said he was "quite certain" that Bolante would be deported because no case had yet been decided against the former agriculture official that he could use as basis for claiming persecution.

Until Bolante returned to the Philippines, the government could not initiate any criminal proceedings against him, Gonzalez said.

"Everything, I think, is still academic at this point because even if it were announced that the US authorities have denied his request for political asylum, he's still in the US, so we still do not have any jurisdiction over him," he explained.

Gonzalez also noted that the Senate only ordered Bolante arrested for failing to appear in hearings in the chamber and recommended his indictment.

A graft case against Bolante has been filed before the Office of the Ombudsman, he said, but this would not prosper until Bolante was back in the land.

Gonzalez also disputed accusations that Malacañang did not want Bolante back because he was a "threat" to the Arroyo administration.

"I don't think he is a threat to the Palace. If, assuming that he has remained some stumbling attendant in his performance as undersecretary, I think we should first confine the issues within the Department of Agriculture and the people there. The problem with our thinking is that we always accelerate to the Palace anything bad that happens. We always say that the Palace is involved," he said.

Metrobank

ABENSON

iPOD OVERLOAD!

Save prize in every Scratch Card!*
Take home either a 16GB iPod Shuffle,
Pizza Hut Supreme Pizza GC or a set of PC Speakers!

P4,000 Rebate Price!
P 61,990
Less P5,000
P 44,900
42" LCD and HOME THEATER for only P89,999
SAVE P24,999
P 7,499 x12 mos. 0% installment

NEW LOW PRICE!
SAVE P2,000!
P 89,990
P 119,990

50% off
Get this Home Theater for only P 4,999
original: P 9,999

21" FLAT TV
Now: P11,990
P 624 x24 mos. 0% installment
4V AW21SM3
63.5A CM (25") Spatterning WEGA 2.0

P 6,998
New Low Price!
P 8,999
16% OFF
P 7,498
20% OFF
P 15,998
P 3,000 Rebate Price!
P 16,999
Great Price on 25" Flat TV!
P 15,990

FULLY! LOADED APPLIANCE BUNDLES
ABENSON
FULLY! LOADED APPLIANCE BUNDLES
ABENSON

Enjoy 0% INTEREST
Metrobank
You're in good hands.

NFA ordered to double rice supply in Mindanao

By Amy R. Remo and Jerome Aning

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY ARTHUR YAP has ordered the National Food Authority to double the volume of the rice-subsidized rice that it supplies to Mindanao to stabilize prices in that region.

"I have directed the NFA to increase by 100 percent its supply of rice, particularly in the cities of Davao and General Santos, where a tightening of supply has been observed," Yap said.

The NFA will allocate 3,000 50-kilogram bags daily for Davao, up from the previous 1,500 bags, while General Santos City will get 2,000 bags from the previous 1,200 bags, said Jun Gimpaya, NFA public affairs director.

"The increased allocation started two days ago. This brings the NFA's market share in Davao to 20 percent from the previous 12 percent, and in General Santos City, to 10 percent from the previous 11 percent," Gimpaya said.

The increased allocation would only be for the rice-subsidized rice being sold at P18.25 a kilo, he said.

Bridging price gap

Yap issued the order amid reports that private traders in Davao and General Santos are reportedly selling commercial rice at P40 to P45 a kilo. He clarified that the P50 per kg rice was the price of high-end fancy varieties like milagrosa and upland rice.

According to Yap, doubling the volume of rice-subsidized rice in those provinces would help bridge the price gap, allowing consumers the option to buy rice with prices ranging between P25 and P35 a kilo.

Yap said the NFA would ask the local governments for help in monitoring prices to ensure that prices of commercial rice retailers that the NFA will release to accredited retailers will not go beyond P25 a kilo.

The NFA distributes and sells subsidized rice, which targets low-income consumers, and commercial rice at P25 a kilo for middle-income families. These are available in NFA selling stores and Tindahan Natin outlets.

Less records

Yap assured the public that the Department of Agriculture will continue to carry out measures to stabilize rice prices, especially during the July-September lean months when price movements are likely to occur.

NFA Administrator Jesup Navarro earlier said the food agency would implement rice stabilization measures using powers effective in resetting the price cloth to Metro Manila. The initial targets will be major Mindanao cities, including Davao, General Santos and Cagayan de Oro.

Navarro said the NFA is keeping a tight watch on the rice market in Mindanao and coordinating with the National Bureau of Investigation to go after cartels and illegal activities of noncompliant rice traders.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday said he has ordered the NBI to resume its nationwide drive against suspected rice hoarders and cartel organizers.

Anti-hoarding drive

The revived anti-hoarding drive will be more comprehensive and the NBI will also be looking into the activities of farmers, particularly those who keep large stocks of palay and refuse to sell them, thus affecting the supply and the price of the staple.

"The National Food Authority has already increased its buying price of palay so there is no more reason for farmers not to sell their produce," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez stressed that the NBI would be focusing mainly on the rice cartel members and noncompliant traders suspected of price manipulation.

Aplus METRO
Like Ever G. Dipasupil

3 dead in Tondo fire

Unattended candle could have caused blaze; 2 others hurt, including firefighter

By Tina G. Santos

THREE PERSONS WERE KILLED AND TWO others injured early Thursday morning in a fire in Tondo, Manila believed to have been caused by an unattended candle.

In least 500 families lost their homes as a result of the blaze. The damage to property was estimated at P1 million.

Manila fire marshal Senior Supt. Peddrin Cordova identified the fatalities as Wanneka Hinolan, 52; her five-in-parmer Elias Madrigal, 54; and son Bernardi, 15, all of Marinaes Street in Tondo.

Those injured were firefighter Jil Villanueva, of the Pasu fire brigade, and Eric Sendro, 39, who was reportedly sideswiped by a responding fire truck.

An initial investigation indicated that the fatalities were trying to escape from the fire when they were trapped in a narrow alley and burning pieces of wood fell on them. The bodies were found one on top of the other, the victims holding hands.

SFO2 Rodolfo Serrin of the Manila Fire District said the fire started around 2:00 a.m. at the house of one Wadrow Fernandez. It quickly spread to adjacent houses along C. P Garcia Extension in Barangay 123 Zone 9 on Marinaes St. About 100 houses, mostly made of light materials, were destroyed.

The fire was put out at 3:41 a.m.

Arson investigators said they were still verifying reports that a lit candle caused the fire. It was gathered that there was a power outage in the area before the fire happened.

RESIDENTS of Marinaes Street in Tondo watch helplessly as a fire eats up their homes. Five hundred families were left homeless after the blaze.
AFP PHOTO

DID YOU KNOW

THE METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System, the Quezon City government and ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Kalikasan renovated the 33-hectare La Mesa Ecopark outside the La Mesa Watershed and opened it to the public in September 2004. Revenues raised by the park—featuring a swimming pool, boating and fishing lagoons, a bike and baths, trail and an ecomuseum—are used to preserve the watershed.

Cyril L. Bacdayan, Inquirer Research

Summer season is Chickenpox season. For most of us, Chickenpox is something that we don't take seriously... and only very few is aware of its serious complications.

One of the most serious complications of Chickenpox is encephalitis - the inflammation of the brain. This can lead to mental retardation, affecting a child's learning and motor skills, and in effect, affecting their future.

One way to prevent this from happening is to practice preventive health care that includes vaccination. However, according to the Philippine Foundation for Vaccination and the Phil. Pediatric Society, one Chickenpox shot is not enough. Having a follow-up shot increases the level of protection against Chickenpox.

With this in mind, Unpredictableness Philippines launches Project: VIP (Vaccinate, Immunize and be Protected), a disease awareness campaign advocating for proactive vaccination among Filipinos of all ages and all walks of life to prevent the incidence and spread of vaccine-preventable diseases. SMH encourages everyone to secure your child's bright future. Visit your pediatrician and schedule your child's Chickenpox shot and inquire about the follow-up shot today.

Containers yield P30M worth of onions, ginger

By Kristine L. Alave

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS found yesterday about P30 million worth of onions and ginger in containers seized earlier at the Manila International Container Port in the city's North and South Harbor area.

Some P22.7 million worth of onions were found in 30-40-foot containers and P7.3 million worth of ginger in two 20-foot containers.

The containers arrived between May 11 and June 1 on ships coming from India and Hong Kong, BOC records showed. They were impounded for lacking import permits from the Bureau of Plant Industry and the agriculture department.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales, together with Department of Agriculture Assistant Secretary Salvacion Salmoyo and other officials, inspected the containers.

The contents of the containers were consigned to various private companies, including Asian Trading Co., Mel Commerce Liners, and Shell International Trading.

Although all three denied importing the products, Morales said they would still file charges against the companies.

"These products are regulated," Morales said.

Customs intelligence chief Dino Ramos said smugglers could have used the means of trading firms to avoid scrutiny by the Bureau of Customs.

Caloocan cops suspects in 'salvaging' of 3 men

By Alcuin Papa, Nancy Carvajal and John Mc. Bacolod

"I SALVAGE SAYING MGA ITO. Mga holdapper nga ito. Kati's salvage them. 'Pray are holdappers'."

The words that sent chills down the spine of Glen Gervasiago, 22, a resident of Cismarts, Caloocan City, were spoken by one of at least 10 men who accosted him and his three friends early yesterday morning in Caloocan. The men identified themselves as police men.

Gervasiago managed to escape. But the bodies of three alleged victims of "salvaging" or summary execution by police from Precinct 14 of Bagong Silang, Caloocan, were found in various areas of the city.

Gervasiago told the media in Camp Crame yesterday that at around 12:30 a.m., he was onboard a tricycle with Archie Abon, Robert Tan and a certain Arby cruising down Congressional Avenue in Camarin. Desperate, unknown five motorcycles, blocked their way, he said.

Gervasiago said eight of the men were wearing police uniforms but had no nameplates. Two were in civilian clothes.

He said he and his companions were handcuffed as some of the policemen boarded their tricycle. The group was going around in circles for about half an hour when Gervasiago heard the policemen talk about "salvage" plans.

In Sunrise Subdivision, Gervasiago managed to slip off his handcuffs and made a dash for freedom. A few meters away from the tricycle, he felt a sharp pain in his left hip.

Though he realized he had been shot, he continued to run even as he heard at least seven more shots and feared for his friends.

"I was so afraid. At some point, my vision started to blur," Gervasiago said. He managed to make it to the house of a friend who brought him to the East Avenue Medical Center.

Early Thursday morning, the bodies of the friends he left behind were found in Dalisera Springs, Bagong Silang, and Aurora Street, Amparo Subdivision in Caloocan.

"Sky Ilocandyo alyas Jommy Bhadin, kasi daw siraulo (They told us we robbed a Muslim)," Gervasiago said, divulging the charge. Senior Supt. Erickson Velasquez, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-National Capital Region vowed no cover-up.

National Capital Region Police Office officer-in-charge Chief Supt. Eric Javier said he ordered Velasquez to oversee the investigation and to provide protection to the victim to avoid suspicions of a whitewash.

The victim said he would be able to identify at least three men involved in the incident. But Northern Police District Chief Supt. Pedro Tango said the victim's failed to do so when four suspects were presented in a lineup at police headquarters on Samson Road yesterday.

Tango added that he would ask city police chief Supt. William Mascarinas to explain why seven suspects, including one civilian, did not show up.

5 establishments found in violation of QC regulations

By Jeannette I. Andrade

FIVE ESTABLISHMENTS IN Quezon City face closure or the suspension of their permits for alleged violations of several health and business regulations.

Three bars and two health clubs on Timog and Quezon Avenues failed an inter-agency inspection conducted late Wednesday night by operatives of the Quezon City Police District-Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (QCPD-CIDU), the Business Permits and Licensing Office (BPLO) and the city health department.

The QCPD-CIDU team led by Supt. Antonio Tuvera said violations included the lack of occupation and business permits.

Employees of so-called "bar" places have to get occupation and health permits issued by the BPLO and the city health department.

In his report to QCPD-CIDU head Supt. Rodolfo Mateo Mayuga, Tuvera said the Grand Arellian restaurant on Timog Ave. had 107 women entertainers but only 89 were able to present the required documents.

At Bimbo Point on Quezon Ave., the assistant floor manager failed to present the club's business permit and only five of eight GROs had occupation and health permits.

The floor manager of the Citra Health Club, also on Quezon Ave., failed to show a business permit. Only one of 15 massage attendants had an occupation and health permit.

All caught all three denied importing the products, Morales said they would still file charges against the companies.

"These products are regulated," Morales said.

Customs intelligence chief Dino Ramos said smugglers could have used the means of trading firms to avoid scrutiny by the Bureau of Customs.

METROBRIEFS

Victim of a bad joke

POLICE have launched a hunt against a man who allegedly caused to death a 23-year-old vendor who had joked about the former having hallmark (bad breath) in Quezon City before have fainted out in search of Frederick Manlon Jr. after Jerry Magsalin, of Malanday Caloocan Hills, died of multiple head injuries while undergoing treatment at the East Avenue Medical Center on May 27, two days after the attack. The incident was reported to the police only yesterday by the victim's sister, Evelyn. SPO2 Joe Mendi, of the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit said the incident happened around 8 p.m. of May 25 along Bing-bing Street in Barangay Batasan Hills. Martel said Manlon, who was drinking with his brother and neighbors, had offered a drink to Magsalin who was passing by. Magsalin, however, refused the offer and went home. When he returned to the area but, he told Manlon he just that he had bad breath. Manlon feared the joke of humans and started hitting Magsalin in the legs and head with a lead pipe. The victim was rushed to the East Avenue Medical Center where he died while under going treatment. Jeannette I. Andrade

Worker electrocuted on job site

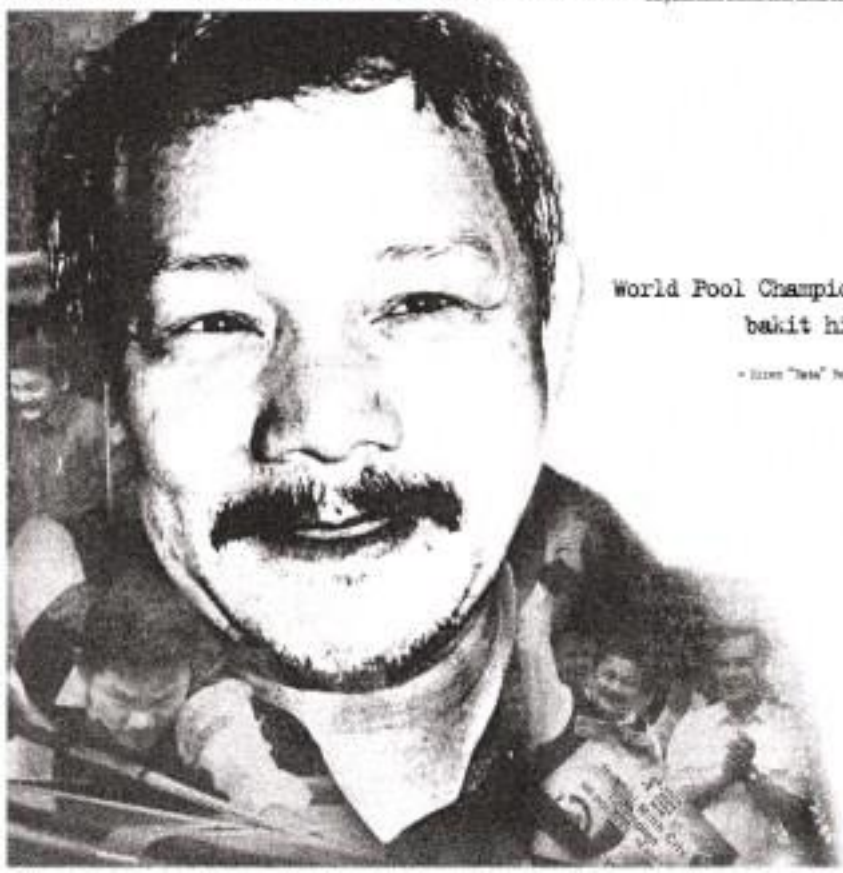
A 42-YEAR-OLD man was electrocuted while installing fuse to a newly-constructed annex building of television network GMA7 at the corner of 11th Jamboree St. and Edsa before noon Wednesday in Quezon City. Roberto Magalayo, of Cainta, Rizal, was declared dead on arrival by attending doctors at the East Avenue Medical Center where he was brought by co-workers. Police investigators said Magalayo was reportedly installing electrical lines on the ceiling of the building when he tripped on the open wire of a spotlight he had been using and was electrocuted. Jeannette I. Andrade

Couple face charges for death of 3-year-old boy

THE MANILA Police District has filed charges against the mother and stepfather of the petite girl whose body was found floating in a creek in Cooperative recently. Police said Nora Valle, the mother of 3-year-old Jireh, was charged with parricide to the Manila Prosecutor's Office. Her live-at partner, Joel Pineda, is facing a murder charge. The couple remains at large. A witness claimed he saw the couple throw the boy into the toilet's de Dan Miguel on Antigua St. a few hours before the boy's body was found floating in the afternoon of May 7. The suspects were initially arrested by police a few days after the incident, but were released in the absence of a witness. Their neighbors earlier claimed they hear of the couple quarrelling a few hours before the body was discovered. An autopsy report showed the victim died of drowning but apparently sustained a wound in the head that could have been caused by a blunt object. Rolf Valle and Pineda earlier claimed they had nothing to do with the victim's death saying the latter was not in their custody when the incident happened. Fran S. Santos

De Guzman, 73

JUDGE Rodolfo Ramos de Guzman of Jaen, Nueva Ecija, father of the late Roy de Guzman, former Inquirer reporter, died on June 4. He was 73 years old. His body lies at La Fortaleza Pac. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Cremation will take place at 3 p.m. on Sunday after a Mass. Be Guzman is survived by his wife Delia, children Rodolfo, Rodolfo Jr. and Eloy, Rhodora, Noemia and Gilbert Rivera, Rosalica and Flavia Valerio, and grandchildren Shanna, Jonik, Janella, Jio, Justin, Rikko and CJ.



Love to read.
Be an Inquirer.
INQUIRER
www.inquirer.net

Lull ends: 2 car bomb blasts in Baghdad kill 19

A WOMAN cries after a bomb destroyed her house in Qara 4.

BAGHDAD... TWO CAR BOMBS rocked Baghdad on Wednesday, killing 19 people, while US troops suffered their biggest single loss in a month, bringing to six and a relative lull in violence, officials said.

In the first blast, a powerful truck bomb targeted the home of a senior police officer overseeing security operations with the military in the capital of six million people, police said.

Fifteen people were killed, including the officer's nephew. At least 35 more were wounded, with dozens of cars being reduced to twisted metal on the shattered street.

Moments later, a car bomb exploded outside a funeral reception being held for a local tribal leader in the Al Shab neighborhood. The victims were rushed to two hospitals.

Unconfirmed reports said up to 16 people had died.

Police said the officer, whose name was not given, was not in home when the bomber struck.

Separately, a car bomb exploded outside a family restaurant serving fast food and ice cream in the Jadiya neighborhood, killing four people and wounding 10, police said.

The attacks came as another bombing of police in Salahaddin province, north of Baghdad, killed four policemen, including another officer.

Earlier in the day, three American soldiers were killed by small arms fire in the mainly Sunni Arab town of Hawijah, near the northern Iraqi oil city of Kirkuk, the US military said.

The US deaths on Wednesday raised to 4,099 the number of American troops killed in Iraq since the 2003 invasion, according to an AFP tally based on the independent website www.icasualties.org.

Wednesday's attack produced the highest single four-day American troops since four Marines died in a mine attack in the former Sunni rebel bastion of Anbar province on May 4.

Overall, US troops last month saw their lowest level of losses since the invasion of Iraq in March 2003. The number killed in May dropped to 19, with the previous low being in February 2004, when 20 died.

Iraqi security authorities also reported a 50 percent decline in the number of Iraqi nationals killed last month to 565 from April. The number of Iraqis wounded last month was also down to 1,100 from 2,008 in April.

US military authorities had said that the decline in violence was due to stepped up operations against militias and insurgents, but that al-Qaida in Iraq operatives still had the ability to stage spectacular strikes.

Meanwhile, the US military said its troops together with Iraqi police found a dozen 155mm mine grave in an eastern neighborhood of Baghdad on Sunday. Local officials said there were 93 bodies at the site. AFP

US Marine acquitted of all charges in Haditha killings

LOS ANGELES... A COURT martial on Wednesday acquitted a US Marine he had told a spokesperson for the Camp Pendleton military base in southern California where the hearing started on May 28.

Grayson had been charged with making false statements and attempting to fraudulently separate from the Marine Corps. He was also charged with obstruction of justice, but the military judge dismissed this charge Tuesday.

He was the first Marine to stand trial in connection with the killings of 24 men, women and children in Haditha, the most serious war crime allegation levelled at US forces since the 2003 invasion to topple Saddam Hussein.

On November 19, 2005, a US soldier on patrol was killed by a roadside bomb in the village of Haditha, 260 kilometers west of Baghdad.

Defense lawyers claim frustrations bubbles in nearby houses subsequently opened fire on the soldiers, forcing them to respond.

Prosecutors say three were no insurgents, alleging that the soldiers opened fire unprovoked to revenge for their colleague's death...

Eight people were originally charged were the last two lower-ranking soldiers to face charges amid base officers, including Grayson, were accused of covering up and failing to properly investigate the killings.

However, since charges were first announced in December 2006, prosecutors have struggled to make the allegations stick.

Six have now had charges against them dropped, while charges of murder against squad leader Frank Wuterich were dropped on the brink of his court-martial.

Wuterich faces trial later this year, along with Col. Jeffrey Chessani, who has been charged with dereliction of duty and violation of a lawful order.

The Marine said in a press release issued immediately after the killings in Haditha that 15 Iraqis had been killed by the roadside bomb that claimed the life of Lance Cpl. Miguel Terrazas.

A subsequent investigation by Time magazine showed that most of the dead were killed as Marines swept through three homes near the bombing, prompting a wide-ranging internal investigation. AFP

WONDERS OF THE WORLD CANDIDATE

Partial view of the Devil's Throat (background) at the Iguazu Falls, from the Brazilian side of the Iguazu River. The Iguazu Falls appear to be one of the candidates to be named as one of the seven natural wonders of the world through Internet voting. ***

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Lanao del Norte
Provincial Government Center
Tubod, Lanao del Norte

OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte is hereby inviting bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of the following goods and services:

PARTICULAR	DATE
Acquisition of eligibility requirements	June 12-13, 2008
Deadline for submission of eligibility requirements	June 13, 2008
Opening of eligibility requirements	June 17, 2008
Issuance of Bidding Documents to Eligible Bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of P5,000.00	
A. Hospital	
B. Provincial Jail	
Pre-bid conference	July 1, 2008
Submission and opening of bids	July 8, 2008

For any inquiries, please call BIDS Secretariat, Telephone No. (063) 341-4002.

This bidding shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

The Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids, and waives any and all technicalities and defects contained therein and to award the contract in the best interest of the Province of Lanao del Norte. Only eligible bidders shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. The Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte further reserves the right to disqualify any bidder who has been found to have committed any prohibited practice in connection with the bidding process, or to waive any defect therein to favor any bidder, consistent with the objective of the Government to promote transparency, competition and trust in the bidding process, and to avoid loss or delay.

(sgd.) **DELFIN C. LORENZO**
Governor

Scientists: China disregarded warnings on earthquake risk

SHANGHAI, CHINA... CHINESE SCIENTISTS say that even before a fatal accounting can be made in last month's earthquake in Sichuan province, one thing is painfully evident: The huge death toll stems partly from a failure to heed clear warnings of a devastating earthquake in the area.

For decades, Chinese scientists say, they have known of the risk of a potentially catastrophic earthquake along the Longmenshan fault, the area where the Wenchuan earthquake struck, and repeatedly raised their concerns with government authorities. But they say preparations for a quake there were cursory at best, and building codes remained well short of the codes that have become standard in other well-known earthquake zones, including Japan.

The ruling Communist Party has hailed its own vigorous response to the quake as evidence of its concern for human life, and has generally received positive reviews at home and abroad for its rescue efforts after the quake. To date, however, China's state-run news media have paid little attention to the fact that government officials apparently did little to shore up structures, limit urban growth or even conduct basic safety drills that might have reduced the death toll.

"Chinese people have a saying that you learn a lesson made meeting after the sheep have run away," said Gao Jiangnan, a researcher with the China Earthquake Administration, in Beijing. "In this case, people wouldn't recognize the danger until the sheep actually died. We tried to lay out the reasons beforehand, but people wouldn't listen."

One after another, Chinese experts have emphasized that they are unable to predict the timing of an event like last month's earthquake, which left almost 87,000 people dead or missing, but they say that the general danger in this region has been known since at least 1930, when a major quake struck Wenchuan, and has been studied fairly intensively since the 1970s. AST

Japan's fishermen may strike over high oil prices, says official

TOKYO... JAPAN'S FISHERMEN ARE CONsidering a week-ranging strike this summer to protest surging fuel prices, which threaten to cut their profits, an industry official said Thursday.

Japan has one of the world's largest fishing industries but virtually no natural energy resources, making Asia's biggest economy especially susceptible as the global price of crude oil soars.

Leaders of the 32 fishing industry groups, which together provide more than half of Japan's unprocessed natural fish, met Wednesday and agreed to consider an across-the-lines suspension, an official said.

"Some individually operating fishermen would go landscape tomorrow. Some already have," said an official of the Japan Fisheries Association, the nation's leading fishing industry group.

"The main purpose of a suspension, if we all go ahead with it, is to show our strained resistance to the government and public," he said on condition of anonymity.

The price of fuel oil used to run fishing boats is on the verge of 100,000 yen (0.00 a kiloliter (200 gallons), compared with about 70,000 yen a year ago, he said.

The exact timeframe of a suspension has not been decided by the fishing industry, which may also press for further government subsidies to offset oil and personnel costs.

"Even if fishermen go out to catch fish at these record levels, they cannot make a profit," said an official of the National Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations, one of the 32 groups.

Rising oil costs have had political ramifications across Asia, particularly in developing countries. In India, general strikes called by the government's communist allies paralyzed three states Thursday after a hike in fuel prices.

In Japan, the average regular price of petrol for a record high of 171.99 yen ($1.50) a liter this week. AFP

Magnolia
Mosqueda and Fielders, Inc.
Helping your marketing and sales teams soar!

BE A PATHFINDER.
BECOME A VALUE INNOVATOR.
SET THE PACE. CREATE THE TREND.

NEW CLASS OFFERED DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND

BLUE OCEAN STRATEGY
EXECUTIVE BOOTCAMP 1.0 by Josiah Go
July 2-3, 2008, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City

The Blue Ocean Strategy (BOS) Executive Bootcamp 1.0 focuses on the strategy formulation side. Concepts, tools, methodologies and tips behind Blue Ocean Strategy shall be introduced beyond what is available in the book by the only Filipino who has not only been certified but has also completed the pioneering qualification process in France conducted by the authors themselves, Kim Chan and Rene Mauborgne in 2006. Various misconceptions and abuses shall also be corrected in this workshop. Participants shall work in small groups and apply what they have learned using cases that will be assigned. **SEATS ARE LIMITED!**

Reserve your place early and **ENJOY THE SPECIAL DISCOUNTS** for early bird savings. Call Aida Sarao or Jaclee Gonzales at **723-2318 | 727-0142 | 412-0838 | 0918-91-168-88** or email us at **info@magnolia.net** or visit our website at **www.magnolia.net**

OTHER SEMINARS:

23rd Effective Negotiating and Influencing Skills by Ramon Gallvan	June 19-20, 2008
22nd Key Account Management by Emilio Mascarol III	June 23-24, 2008
3rd Market-Needs (MAN) Marketing by Dr. Ned Roberto	June 26, 2008
1st Delivering Outstanding Service by Chinzi Samuel-De	June 26-26, 2008
2nd Pricing Strategies by Dr. Ned Roberto	June 26-27, 2008
47th Fundamentals of Marketing by Wenna Pineda	July 2-3, 2008
23rd Trade Marketing by Emilio Mascarol III	July 3-5, 2008
3rd Strategic Market Segmentation by Dr. Ned Roberto	July 4, 2008
4th Building a Winning Sales Team by Emilio Mascarol III	July 7-8, 2008
9th Client-Centric Selling by Ramon Gallvan	July 17-18, 2008
23rd Marketing Strategies and Plans by Josiah Go	July 17-18, 2008
3rd Engineering a Winning Brand DNA by Wenna Pineda	July 24-26, 2008
2nd Consumer Insighting by Dr. Ned Roberto	July 28-29, 2008

All seminars are from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and will be held in a 5-star hotel in Makati or Ortigas.

PLATINUM SPONSOR: ABENSON OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNERS: BusinessWorld INQUIRER

The WORLD

Edna Lorraine S. Cueva

Billions in aid pledged at food summit

ROME—UN OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED ALMOST $3 billion of new emergency aid to help ease the global food crisis Wednesday, but UN chief Ban Ki-moon warned up to $20 billion a year would be needed.

"We simply cannot afford to fail," the UN secretary general said at the food security summit in Rome, which is grappling with fears to stop the crisis escalating. "Hundreds of millions of people expect no less." (Related story on Page A2.)

The extra resources that might be as required will cost between $14 billion and $20 billion (10-15 billion euros) a year, Ban told a news conference.

New funding totaling some $2.7 billion was announced on the second day of the summit in Rome, where Ban has already demanded a 50-percent increase in food production by 2030.

Food prices have doubled in three years, according to the World Bank, sparking riots in Egypt and Haiti and in many African countries. Brazil, Vietnam, India and Egypt have all imposed food export restrictions.

Leaders at the summit were finalizing an action plan to be unveiled on Thursday, Ban said, while warning that it will require "substantial and sustained financial and political commitment."

John Holmes, head of the UN task force on the food crisis, said a "broad consensus" was building around the action plan, which should be completed by the end of this month for presentation at the Group of Eight meeting in Japan.

World Bank president Robert Zoellick called for the lifting of trade barriers that contribute to food price inflation.

"We need an international call to remove export bans and restrictions," he said. "These controls encourage hoarding, drive up prices and hurt the poorest people around the world who are struggling to feed themselves," he said.

Humanitarian charity Oxfam spokesperson Alexander Woolf, cited said that criticizing developing countries' trade barriers distracted from the need for wealthy countries to reexamine their own trade policies.

"Rich countries would do better to focus on fixing their own policies instead of criticizing developing country governments," he told AFP.

Former UN secretary general Kofi Annan put his signature Wednesday to a new initiative for reviving the three UN food agencies with his Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).

"By scaling our efforts we can dramatically step up our support for Africa's smallholder farmers," said Annan, revealing that the efforts were would "focus on the small-scale farmer, not to run them out of business." AFP

Get a FREE 2GB Ipod Shuffle for each purchase of the following HP Pavilion & Compaq Presario models:

To claim:
Fax or email the following documents to Yaxys Corporation and attention the documents to Ms. RC Concepcion:
a.) Sales Invoice/Official Receipt
b.) Cut out serial number sticker (from the box)
c.) Valid ID
d.) Contact Information

For provincial Purchases, iPods will be delivered. Delivery charges apply.

NOTE:
Metro Manila claims can be picked up at the advise of our customer service representative.

Promo Duration: June 1 - 15, 2008

COMPAQ

UN: Don't forget climate danger amid food crisis

WELLINGTON—CRISES OVER SOARING food and oil prices should reinforce rather than distract from the need for action over climate change, the head of the United Nations Environment Program said Thursday.

UNEP executive director Achim Steiner said it was inevitable that attention on climate change would drain this year after the intense international focus on it in 2007.

"What we are saying is take a breath, but don't sit back because the situation is actually worse than we thought two years ago," Steiner said.

Steiner was in New Zealand to mark World Environment Day, while the country's capital Wellington hosting a number of international greens and events.

The focus of attempts to reach a global deal to replace the Kyoto plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions moved to Bonn, Germany this week where 2,400 negotiators are trying to hammer out a deal by the end of next year.

Steiner said any loss of public support for climate change measures — amid a drift of focus to food and fuel prices... could spell disaster for a global deal.

"Unless we get back to the levels of political engagement this year we had last year, I worry that we will not have the political will in the international community to reach an agreement," he said.

"World Environment Day should be a signal it's time to get mobilized again."

Worries about future food supplies were closely linked to climate change and should not be seen in isolation, he said.

"The uncertainties and extreme weather events (of climate change) will deeply make the food shortages of the future worse, and that is why there is every reason to connect these agendas."

Scientists warn that climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions could put millions of people at risk by scenarios such as rainfall patterns change and extreme weather events such as hurricanes increase. AFP

Burma arrests comedian-activist as US ships leave

ZARGANAR

YANGON, BURMA (Myanmar) has detained a top activist comedian involved in a private aid effort for cyclone victims, a relative said, as US warships sailed away on Thursday after the military junta refused to accept them aid offer.

Zarganar, who was last detained in the crackdown on fuel price protests in September, was taken from his Hangman (Yangon) home by secret police on Wednesday evening, the family member said.

They also seized his computer and several banned films, including the latest Hanks movie, which features the US Navy's War veteran taking on the Soviet Bureau's ruling military on behalf of Christian ethnic Karen rebels.

Police also found a copy of the leaked video of the lavish "champagne and cincoscoff" wedding in 2006 of army supremo Than Shwe's daughter, which caused outrage among ordinary people in one of Asia's poorest countries.

Zarganar's detention is likely to cause concern for the many informal private groups who are quietly collecting aid for the former capital and reaching it to the humanitarian crisis, where Cyclone Nargis has left 2.4 million people in need of help.

More than a month after the storm, which also left 134,000 people dead or missing, many survivors have not yet been reached. Reuters

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Manfils lifts French hope /A29

SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Mukandoy Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Gobon

Tell us your feedback: inquirer.net/mailbox/sports/message to 2300 (Globe) or 183 (Smart) E-mail: pi_sports@inquirer.com.ph

62 days to the 29th Summer Olympics

Beijing 2008

Streaking Express, Aces tangle

ALASKA PUTS THE TOURNAMENT'S longest winning streak on the line today against an Air21 side seeking safe footing after the two-last scores clash in the Abdulmalik round of a new-modified-up Smart Fiesta Cup race.

Game time is 4:30 p.m. at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City with odds just about even for both teams who have a combined six-game winning streak.

While the Express will be trying to break out of a three-way tie for fifth with the Coca-Cola Tigers and the Red Bull Barako, the Aces are looking to extend their unbeaten run to five and move into solid contention for an outright semifinal seat.

Sta. Lucia, the reigning Philippine Cup champion which has its last two games, and Barangay Ginebra battle in the 7:30 p.m. contest.

At 4-3, Air21 and the Red Bull and Coca-Colaare just a half-game clear of joint fourth placers Magnolia and Talk N Text.

And the Beverage Masters and the Phone Pals are just half-a-game behind of Alaska, Sta. Lucia and Purefoods with the Gin Kings at 4-0 and will very much in the running for the second best finish-an outright quarterfinal slot.

Welcome it again in danger of missing the playoff but for the fourth straight instance after the Dragons dropped their fifth straight assignment Wednesday night at the Araneta Coliseum by a 3-10 score.

Meanwhile, Espinas Homer Jr. was slapped a P20,000 fine for his participation in an altercation during the 4th Qtr. in...

PUREFOODS' Rex Villanueva gets trapped by a double-team of Coca-Cola's Rudy Cabengaj (left) and Jason Dixon in Wednesday's game won by the Tender Juicy Giants, 100-98.

...rin game last week.

The four-year bruiser-dunne ex-PUL6,000 for the Regular foul and another P10,000 for his belligerent fighting stance.

It was the sixth time that he was fined in his career, bringing the total to P95,000, on top of two one-game suspensions.

Randy Holcomb has turned out to be the perfect fit for the fighting Aces, a fact that has drawn praise from coach Tim Cone, especially last week when the reinforcement missed a triple-double by just three boards in an 88-80 whipping of the Tender Juicy Giants.

"You can now see the value he has on this team," Cone, a grand slam winner, said with a smile. "After losing so many games, I think we deserve to be where we are now — winning four straight."

Willie Miller will again be the top local for the defending champion Aces, while the Express will try to get the goods from Steven Thomas, Arwind Santos, Wynzor Asbeda and the high-leaping Ali Candelaria.

Thomas recorded the season's first triple-double with 24 points, 25 rebounds and 10 assists in a 95-93 come-from-behind victory over Sta. Lucia last Sunday which saw the defect of Jamal Brown for the Bolts.

Brown will be joined against Chris Alexander in a marquee import match-up that will not be lost in the local sidelight featuring heavy scorer Mark Caguioa and Jay-Jay Helterbrand for Ginebra and Kelly Williams and Ryan Reyes for the Bolts.

Mwenag B. Guerilla

BAP-Villafuerte elections 'futile'

Vargas: Fiba behind SBP

By Inquirer Sports

VARGAS: Nothing to fight about

THE SO-CALLED "NATIONAL congress" held Wednesday by the politicians-dominated faction of the Bill Shakabang Barkilled up Filipinos to "total" and "futile" since the group "has no legal personality."

Officials of both the BAP-SBP group headed by Manuel V. Pangilinan and the Philippine Olympic Committee yesterday neither blasted or completely ignored the holding of the congress, which reportedly elected the national basketball body's new set of officers.

The faction led by Cayetano Sec Rep. Luis Villafuerte as chair elected 2007 losing senatorial candidate Prospero Pichay Jr., among others, as its board of trustees. Pichay was also chosen as the faction's president.

SBP vice-chair Ricky Vargas, however, said it is their group — headed by Jesse FLIT chair Pangilinan — which enjoys the recognition of both the international basketball federation (FIBA) and the POC.

"There really is nothing to fight about," Vargas said in a message to sportswriters covering the Rizal Memorial beat.

"Even if there are three or 30 groups claiming that they are BAP/SBP, there is only one duly recognized (entity) by the (Fiba), and it is the group headed by Pangilinan," he added. "It's just unfortunate that they (Villafuerte's faction) are not the recognized body."

The POC yesterday reiterated its recognition of Pangilinan's group as the legitimate national sports association (NSA) for basketball.

POC president Jose "Peping"

BAP-VILLAFUERTE/ A26

Zamboanga, Adamson-Manila batters gain finals slots

LIPA CITY—ZAMBOANGA CITY AND Adamson University-Manila demolished their respective semifinal-round opponents yesterday to earn outright championship playoff berths in the National Open softball championships at the Sumagaysay-Sumay-Sumay field this city.

The Zamboangueños, the No. 1 team in Group B after the elimination round, routed Group A representative and host Lipa City, 13-4, and moved within a win of winning the men's championship they have seen twice since before.

Adamson's Manila, the women's shortcoin top team in Group A, blasted Rizal province, its counterpart in Group B, 8-4, and like Zamboanga needs just one more victory today to grab the title.

Under the Page system, Lipa City and Rizal are still with their win-loss records by beating the winners of the two other pools. Final games have the losers bracketed.

Lipa dropped into a knockout duel with Philippine Air Force, which defeated Rizal Technological University, 11-3, later in the day while Rizal moved into a survival contest with defending champion University of the Philippines, which routed Adamson Lipa, 3-0.

Both matches will be held at 10:00 a.m. with the Lipa-PAF clash set in Sumagaysay Sumay-Sumay and the Rizal-UP game in Sumagaysay Sumay-Sumay The champion-ship matches will start at 10:30 a.m.

Philippine Sea Boys Orlando Montero, his brother Manuel and Edgardo Alvarez drove in a pair of runs each as the Zamboanguenos romped for 12 hits against Lipa losing pitcher Joel Bueno.

The Adamson-Manila batterwhile, mauled only five innings to ease the RTU slugger with punch-laiver Emanuel Bumagat belting a grand slam at the bottom of the fifth inning.

—Steve Alba, contributor

Manny close to peak form

HE'S IN GREAT PHYSICAL SHAPE AND his training is going smoothly. Manny Pacquiao is ready to rumble with David Diaz this early.

Through their showdown for the World Boxing Council lightweight crown is set on June 28 yet, Pacquiao announced in his Hollywood gym column on Thursday that a month's of intensive training in Los Angeles has turned his body into a mean fighting machine.

The Pacquiao and his team, led by celebrated American trainer Freddie Roach, is leaving nothing to chance.

According to Pacquiao, they have sliced several plans, depending on what kind of attack, style and movement Diaz will adopt for their pay-per-view match at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas.

"We have carefully studied his (Diaz) fighting style," said Pacquiao. "We have even on film how he attacks as well as how he defends. We are trying to plan and create counterattacks as well as combinations in order for us to break down his defense. We are quite sure we have discovered his fighting style."

On Tuesday, Pacquiao sparred for 10 rounds with Noel Rodriguez, Jesus Quinones and Roger Gonzalez and Roach expressed satisfaction that the Gen. San lefty showed accuracy speed and strength.

After one more week of routine preparation, Pacquiao will enter the hardest part of his training, aiming his rounds with the mitts and going through 12 rounds of sparring.

Even with the boxer he spends jogging in Hollywood and working out at the Wild Card Gym, Pacquiao said he still longs for the presence of his family.

To fend off loneliness, Pacquiao said he plays chess and darts and reads the book Purpose Driven Life to his spare time.

Pacquiao knows he can't afford distractions at this time.

NO DISTRACTIONS this time for Manny Pacquiao

BAP-V'fuerte polls 'futile'

From page A27

Calamayan normally declined to be interviewed about the Wednesday election, opting to ignore the activities of Villafuerte's group, which the local Olympic body earlier said had "no legal personality."

Wayne said a May 13 letter by the Pilas powerful council board to Pangilinan, signed by secretary-general Patrick Baumann, reaffirmed the world governing body's recognition of Pangilinan's group.

The same letter also said the Pilas will continue to "disregard any communication coming from the BAE as it has no rights to Pilas, (for) this organization has been merged into the new federation and thus no longer exists."

A POC official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Villafuerte group's congress was "futile because it was not duly recognized by the Pilas."

Philippine Sports Commission chair Willem "Butch" Ramirez—who was thwarted by certain participants as an "honored guest" during Wednesday's activities—said he is willing to be public servant to accept the nomination-turned-

"I was there for only five minutes," he said. "I was there as a public servant, invited by Congressman Villafuerte. I don't have anyone."

Ramirez said he has also accepted nominations to amend the June 13 congress, called by Pangilinan's group, at the Quiet Island in Makati City.

Pangilinan, who was nominated by the professional Philippine Basketball Association as its representative to the BAP-BAE is seeking a second term in the June 13 congress.

Sports coaching Pangilinan's camp said Villafuerte's group will try to create a temporary committing order (TRO) to stop them from holding their elections.

"I think that that is an anti-thesis to sports," Nick Rala, the former PBA commissioner who is the founding commissioner of the fledgling Liga Filipinas league, said of the TRO threat.

The Pilas league source said that the election of the SBP Rala said that if Villafuerte's group is really interested in helping basketball, "they should join forces (again)(it) mainstream."

Villafuerte's group said they hold the congress in accordance with the Bangkok Agreement, signed on July 4, 2007 (which supposedly called for the election of SBP officers.

The BAP was expelled by the POC general assembly in 2005, clearing the ire of the Pilas which suspended the country for two years.

Stanmore himself attended the BAP-SBP's first congress in Omni Hotel last year and welcomed the country back to the Pilas fold a few weeks later.

Mark Fernando now 4 clear after a 70

By Manong R. Castillo

ANTIPOLO—MIKE FERNANDO opened up with back-to-back birdies en route to a two-under par 70 and extended his lead to four shots heading into the final 18 holes of the Philippine National Golf Association Golfers at Wack's rough South course here.

The spearhead of the National Caddies' Open program in Calatagan, Batangas broke par for the third straight round for a 207 total over the well-kept layout being considered as a possible Philippine Open site next year.

Jonel Balbuena rebounded from a mediocre 76 on Wednesday with a duo-best 68 built around four birdies in a six-hole span. He lay at 211, in a tie with former junior ace Emilio Aranas, who carded an even 72.

FERNANDO: Shoot-in for BP Classic slot

The 16-year-old Fernando finished with a flourish, birdieing Nos. 16 and 17.

Balbuena, a former contestant from Zamboanga who was the second NCO champion, earned six birdies against two bogeys, the last coming on the par-5 14th, where he hit a one-pond drive.

First round leader Hallen Bayton fired a 73 for 214, three ahead of Jonel Alcala, who finished par for the first time with a 71. Hasan Lahaje raised seven strokes short for fifth at 219.

The National Golf Association of the Philippines is using this 72-hole event to determine the six players who will make up the BP pool whose members of the Davis Cup and World Amateur Team will come from.

Four players in the NCO program are inside the magic circle. Aranas and Bayton represent ICTSI.

Newly-crowned BP Amateur champion Emilio Aranas returned a 72 and was at 222. But he used out worry about qualifying, since the NGAP has reserved a slot for him to use he fails to land in the magic six, according to NGAP director Cairo Cuenchanlla.

Meanwhile, Cjim Rodriguez and Clifton Ruelo moved to 1-2 in women's play after shooting 69 and 79 for 221 and 227, respectively.

Aaron Bingham grabbed third place with another 77 for 230, three clear of Lorraine Manalo who had an 82 for 236.

The best round scores:
Ladies: 69—C. Rodriguez; 79-69-148; 79—C. Rodriguez; 77-79-156; 82—L. Manalo; 76-77-153; 77—M. Fernando; 70-77-147; 77—J. Balbuena; 77-77-154; 77—C. Rodriguez; 77-77-154; 77—C. Rodriguez; 77-77-154; 77—C. Rodriguez

KOBE Bryant: Big difference

Kobe experience key factor in NBA playoffs, says Bird

BOSTON, Massachusetts— Kobe Bryant's experience from three titles in four years edge on the Cleveland Basketball Association Finals could play a key role for the Los Angeles Lakers against the Boston Celtics.

When the best-of-seven championship showdown opens here Thursday, the NBA Most Valuable Player's leadership of a young Lakers team could be a crucial factor as his scoring skills.

"One thing I see in this series that could hurt the Celtics is Kobe Bryant has been there before," retired Celtics legend Larry Bird said. "He will be a steadying force for the rest of the players. They look up to him so much.

"When things get tough, he might be the one that can pull them through."

Bryant, averaging 31.9 points and 5.8 assists a game in the playoffs, and three-time NBA champion Derek Fisher are the only Lakers who have won titles.

"Kobe has made us better. He's the first one at practice and the last to leave. That has rubbed off on me and my teammates. That's the reason we're here," Lakers forward Lamar Odom said.

"If we're going to win, we're going to have to move the ball around, the ball it's very important. We won't win this series if we try to give the ball to Kobe and let him go one-on-one.

Given a one-man gang, Bryant now tells teammates what the pressure of a championship series will be like.

Lakers coach Phil Jackson, whose nine titles match the late Celtics coach Red Auerbach for the all-time NBA coaching record, have been Bryant's has embraced the challenge of making teammates better.

Stars though Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce and Ray Allen are all making their Finals debuts, Boston boasts key Cassell from Houston's 1995 and 1995 NBA titles and James Posey from Miami's 2006 title team.

Shaquille, with a record 16 NBA titles, is 0-2 in the finals against the Lakers, who have 14 NBA crowns. AFP

KEVIN Garnett: First title crack

FEDERER NEXT

Monfils lifts French hope

PARIS—Gael Monfils, riding a wave of passionate French support, and Novak Djokovic, the world's best player in 2006, plan to derail Roger Federer and United World's French Open semifinal confidence on Friday.

Unseeded Monfils, the swashbuckling, unpredictable Frenchman is the first home player to reach the United Centre last four in seven years.

A month ago, his career was in such disarray that he was playing in a second tier Challenger in Mauritius trying to salvage his game as well as a fractious relationship with his coach.

The 23 year-old takes on Federer who has comfortably seen off three of their career meetings and is desperate to add an elusive French Open to his 12 strong Grand Slam trophy cabinet.

In the other semifinal, Australian Open champion Djokovic, also 21, faces Nadal who's bidding to join Slam King as the only man to win four successive French Opens.

Nadal has won all 26 matches he has played at Roland Garros while Djokovic, the undoubted Serbian who can match the Spaniard's world number one ranking should he win, has been beaten in seven of his 10 career meetings with the champion.

Monfils, who reached his first Grand Slam semifinal with a four-set clustered of Spanish fifth seed David Ferrer, believes destiny could be on his side.

It's exactly 20 years since Yannick Noah won France's last men's title and he believes he can use the occasion to his advantage.

"It's the Lakers versus Boston," said Monfils, the 2004 junior champion, acting the NBA championship match up as his inspiration.

"It's going to be a big match, probably the most important match in my career so far, but it's not the Davis 7 ptd."

Federer, beaten here in the last three years by Nadal, including the 2006 and 2007 finals, has reached a record 10th successive Grand Slam semifinal.

"This is usually where I hope to play my best and especially here in the French, which is supposed to maybe be the toughest one for me," said the world number one.

Should he get past Monfils and face Nadal again in the final, he insists he won't make the same mistakes as Mariano Almagro who was brushed aside by the champion in the quarter-finals, 6-1, 6-1, 6-1.

GAEL Monfils reacts after winning a point against David Ferrer during their French Open quarterfinal match. AFP

"I would have thought Nicolas would have given him a better run for the money," said Federer. "But I read some quotes before the match like he thought that Rafa is so good and so great and maybe he didn't really believe in it. So if you don't believe in it against Rafa, you're not going to win."

Nadal and Djokovic will square up in the other semifinal determined to ignore the history-laden implications of their mouthwatering contest.

Nadal is growing weary of comparisons with Borg who completed his four consecutive titles in 1981, five years before the now-retired Swede.

He is also quick to remind people that so far he has collected 26 more trophies, whereas Borg won six French Open and 63 titles in all.

Despite Nadal's reluctance to mention himself in the same breath as the great Swede, his form here has been impressive.

His victory over Almagro, who scored at Roland Garros with more clay-court wins in 2008 than any other player, was the most one-sided quarterfinal in French Open history.

Furthermore, he has lost just 25 games in five rounds, the lowest in any Grand Slam event in the Open era. But Djokovic is not in an entirely hopeless position.

He may have lost seven of the pair's 10 meetings, but has shared the last four with two victories apiece at Wimbledon in 2007 and here in the 2006 quarterfinals. Just some about enough as injury-enforced retirement.

The Serbian lost to Nadal at the same stage in 2005. AFP

Big Brown draws No. 1 lucky post

NEW YORK— Big Brown is No. 1 again before his owner stampedes out of the gate at the Belmont Stakes.

Big Brown will make his shot at Triple Crown history from the inside, drawing the No. 1 post for Saturday's race. The post could be a lucky one for an undefeated colt that really doesn't need any extra edge. He's produced the most fortuitous outcomes (2-1) since 2005.

Big Brown was installed as the early 2-1 favorite against nine rivals Wednesday for the grueling 1½-mile race.

Big Brown won the Kentucky Derby from the outside and he dominated the Preakness starting in the middle of the pack. Now, the colt has rolled at wheeling from the rail. Jockey Kent Desormeaux, whose flawless handling of the horse has Big Brown in position for the first Triple Crown in 30 years, said the inside was a better spot.

"Absolutely, because it's an easier trip," he said. "I would be able to just gunk and glide. Now, I'm going to have to jockey for position. He's so fast away from the gate, though, the same might be true on the 40-post."

Big Brown is 5-8, winning by a combined 39 lengths. A Belmont victory would make him the first Triple Crown winner since Affirmed completed the sweep 30 years ago.

His main challenger, Japanese-bred Casino Drive, will start from the No. 5 post. He is the 7-2 second choice on the morning line. He and Big Brown are the only horses with single-digit odds.

Dream of Dirk was listed as the 12-1 third choice. He rallied from 20th to finish third in the Derby.

Nick Zito will saddle a pair of 20-1 shots—Da'Tara and Anak Nakal, who finished seventh in the Kentucky Derby. Da'Tara was ninth in the Florida Derby, beaten by 23½ lengths by Big Brown.

Combinational sets a surprise late entry. The colt is winless in five starts for owner-trainer Fred Seitz, but was second by a nose to his last start on turf at Churchill Downs.

3 IBL teams offer Ramos coaching job

BY FLAVIO JOSE THROUGH, ROMUALDO

will be coaching some on foreign soil.

That after three teams from the Indonesian Basketball League (IBL) made an offer recently to Ramos, the former Hapee Cardinal who turned to coaching and is now considered one of the country's upcoming breed coaches.

According to Ramos, he is in constant communication with the three teams.

However, Ramos refused to identify the teams, saying: "We're in the negotiation process". The pre-season commences of the IBL will start in October, while the regular tournament is in tentative in January next year.

"It will be a good opportunity for me to coach again in the IBL," Ramos, who lead his first stint in the IBL with the Aspac Jakarta in 2002 to 2004, said.

During that span, Ramos steered Aspac Jakarta to four straight conference championships.

When he came back home in 2005, he got his big break when he was named as coach of Federal Express (now Air21).

Ramos, a recipient of the 1981 NCAA championship wears of Mapua, started his coaching career with the Cardinals during the 1997 and 1998 MCAA.

When the MBA ceased in 1998, he sneaked the Shampoo Blades for two seasons. He also coached the Manila Metrostars (2000) and Laguna Lakers (2001). Then he joined the PBA as assistant coach to Allan Caidic with Barangay Ginebra (2002).

PBA Piccio Record History

Piccio wins by 18 strokes

PBA PICCIO PUT IN 1981 SUPERB rounds of 66 and 69 to conclude the field in the AJGA (American Junior Golf Association) Modern Promotion Junior tournament, posting a record-setting 10-stroke victory over Lauren Cate and Jennifer Yang at Callaway Gardens Wednesday in Pine Mountain, Georgia.

Piccio played a near flawless game in the first round, hitting all but two greens and coming away with four birdies with an eagle at the par-5 No. 7 when she knocked in a four-footer from a solid 5-iron second shot.

"My putting was good in the first day and my ball-striking was really solid," said Piccio, one of the golfing athletes from the ICTSI stable that includes Dottie Ardina, Cyna Rodriguez and Marvel Pepan. "Totally minimal mistakes."

She made six birdies then topped her three-bogey mishap for that 69 and a 135 for an 18-shot victory over Cate (77) and Yang (78), who both wound up with 153s.

Piccio's steep-round the previous 16-shot winning margin in the streak held by seven players with the most recent being Morgan Pressel's victory over Paula Creamer in the 2004 Videos Texas Justice Open.

The 18-year-old Piccio also won one event, placed second twice and had two third place finishes to the Future Collegiate World Tour.

San Mig drag racing resumes tomorrow

THE COUNTRY'S FASTEST DRIVERS RESUME their stubborn encounters in the sixth leg of the 2008 San Mig Coffee Drag Racing Championship at the Philippine Racing Circuit in Clark.

Some 70 cars are expected to drive up to the speed racers as other drivers try to catch up in the standings and stop defending champion Jonathan Tai of Team Ice from clinching a back-to-back Drag Racing Driver of the Year plum.

Tai leads the series with 80 points following his comeback victory in the last leg and is chasing another Shanagan Pak and Ron Garcia, tied at 60.

With adjustments to his car set-up, Tai hopes to shatter his own existing record time of 8.808 seconds in the series.

Among Tai's strongest title rivals are teammate Anthony Ito and rookie's Victor Garcia.

POC chair wants Joseph's answer now

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (POC) Robert Aventajado yesterday said he would formally ask swimming chief Mark Joseph why he is taking so long to answer the allegations of the group of swimming parents challenging his eligibility.

The taekwondo chief, who headed the POC arbitration committee which resolved the swimming dispute three years ago, said "it amazes me why he finds it difficult to answer the queries being made by these parents."

He said the sporting community does not need this "kind of scenery" especially in swimming which has seven athletes seeking action in the Beijing Olympics.

"It saddens me that it (the dispute) keeps on popping in the papers when it was already settled," said Aventajado. "It's a disservice to the sport in general and swimming in particular."

But Joseph said the issue will be tackled in due time, stressing that the Pinoy is "busy with its purpose" particularly the visit of swimmer-experts here.

"We are in the midst of a camp for elite instruction of swimming teachers and lifesavers conducted by three Australian experts in cooperation with the Australian government. We also have a South African expert here to all the issues and concerns of Subiri and the real Pinoy people will just have to fall in line," he said through text.

Joseph also said they have some up-to-date information in the swimming family that they are not "to be dragged into the cobwebs of these people."

"Robert is from taekwondo, so whatever his interest in swimming. I hope he can do this properly in his terms to us in the interest of the Olympic movement process," Joseph added.

Aventajado said he has the right to inquire in his capacity as POC chair and his inquiries continue.

APENTAJADO

Where lies the Filipino spirit? Where dwells the native soul?
Michael Pez
Best Opinion Column
(2004, 2007)

What lies ahead for the man with the hoe who bears the weight of centuries?
Melvin Gascon
2nd Prize Investigative Journalism
2nd Awards for Excellence in Journalism
2007

Crisis is opportunity- no difference.
Cheryl Lobrad
3rd Place Explanatory Report
2nd Awards for Excellence in Journalism
2007

What's the good news?
Rolf Gutierrez
Best Investigative Report
(2004, 2006)

With every new show, is there also a new way of seeing?
Ramon Tuazon
Best Entertainment Column
(2004, 2006)

When history unfolds on camera, what's the best angle?
Joe Cuenca
Newspaper Photographer of the Year
Gala Awards Awards by CPAP
2007

Earth-bound, spellbound?
Abigail Go
Best Reporter-Everyday Series
Best Feature Story on 154 Energy Best Economic Journalist Association of the Philippines
2004

Will the photo in my mind tell the whole story?
Lyn Riñon
Best Sports Photo
Photo of the Year
National Press Club
2007

Daring to ask has its rewards. That's why year after year, our reporters, writers and photographers have been recognized by the most prestigious journalistic groups.
Little wonder the Philippine Daily Inquirer is also the country's most awarded newspaper.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.

Inviting Everyone
AGRARYO
4-6 JUNE 2008

BUSINESS
Editor Raul G. Marcelo ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

Excellence in Connection
Enjoy the Best First Class Service in the World
PHILIPPINE AIRLINES

Peso further weakens to 44.07:$1

Shares close 1.97% lower

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 1.97 percent lower on news that inflation hadhit a nine-year high in May, dashing expectations of inflation-induced rate cuts, dealers said. The composite index lost 141.78 points to

SHARES B4

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY WEAKENED PAST THE 44 to the US dollar mark for the first time in eight months on reports that consumer prices had risen at their fastest pace in nine years.

The local currency reached an intraday low of 44.10 before closing at 44.07, according to currency deal-ers, the peso's depreciation was tempered by the central bank's intervention.

The peso's decline was aggravated by news from the National Statistics Office that the country's inflation had hit 9.6 percent year-on-year in May.

In its closing race, the peso shed P0.120 from Thursday's finish at 43.945 against the greenback. The currency is now trading at its lowest level since reaching 44.16 on Oct. 29 last year.

NEWS B4

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **7 groups** seen vying for Limay power plant /B6

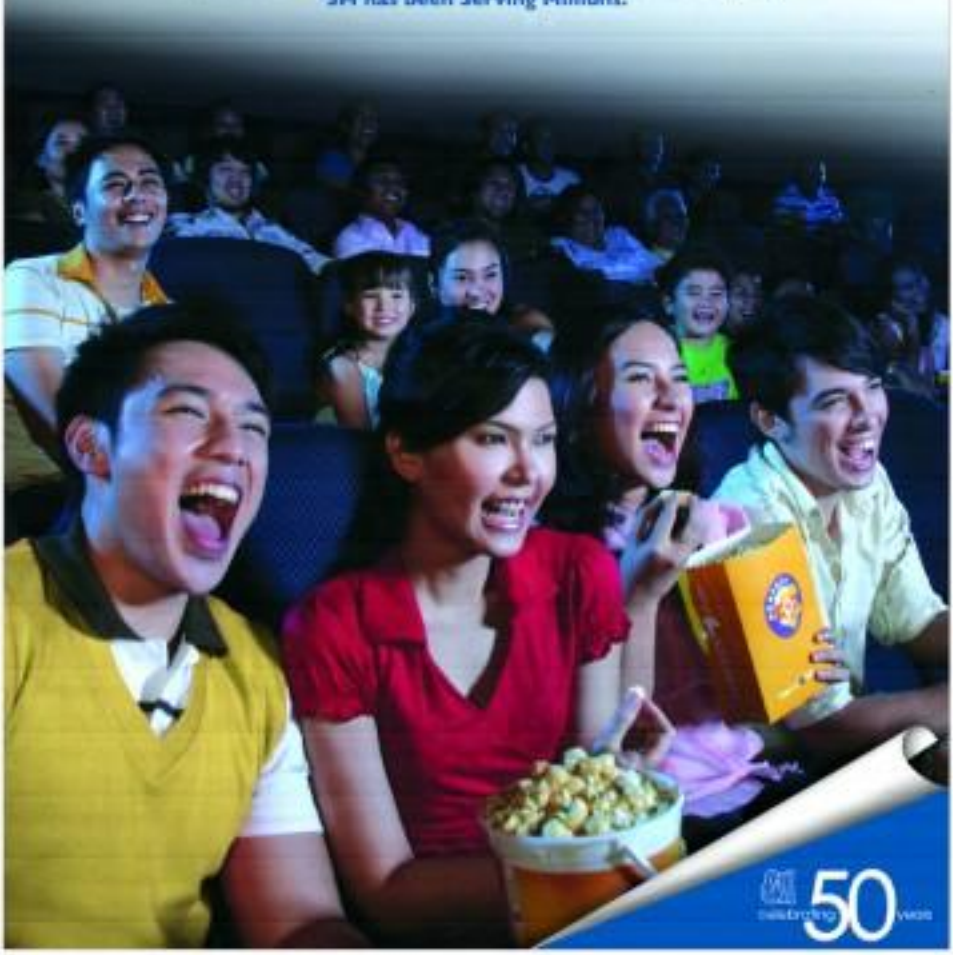
■ **Investments** hit P114B as of April /B7

For the past decades, our movie houses have been entertaining Filipinos all over the country.

LAST YEAR ALONE, OVER 18 MILLION MOVIEGOERS ENJOYED A MOVIE AT AN SM CINEMA.

That adds up to millions more over the past decades. From shoes to fashion, to malls and supermarkets, and to residences, financial institutions and tourism. As we have grown, so has the number of our customers.

No wonder we can say with pride that for the last 50 years, SM has been Serving Millions.



celebrating 50 years

Professional stockholders

NEXT WEEK, IT'S BACK TO school for students nationwide. The transition months are over.

And so are most of stockholders' meetings that companies are required to hold annually to elect a new set of directors. By tradition, these gatherings are held during the summer months to take advantage of the good weather.

The break will give the "professional" or "career" stockholders of the country's top corporations a chance to recharge their batteries and get ready for next year's activities.

Like their billion investors, these stockholders put their money in stocks in expectation of fair returns in the future.

Unless the "bid" price is too good to ignore, they usually treat their stocks like heirlooms to be preserved for the benefit of their loved ones.

Thanks to the generous investment pay they received from their previous employers, these stockholders, who can typically in their late 60s or early 70s, are, by and large, financially comfortable.

In addition, they are in good health and articulate in English.

What sets them apart from most stockholders is, they religiously attend the annual stockholders' meetings of the companies whose stocks they own.

No venue is too far or traffic clogged as to discourage them from attending that corporate ritual.

Corporate securities info

Maricel Finderup

Attendance

Once, before the start of a stockholders' meeting, I met near a group of these stockholders talking about similarly scheduled events of other companies.

They compared notes on the dates and venues of the meetings they planned to attend. Not content with the info set of a colleague, they reviewed the notices of meetings they either received.

They had a lively discussion on the qualifications of the nominees to the board of directors of a food conglomerate.

From they way they talked, I got the impression that they did a thorough research of the personal and business backgrounds of the candidates.

Somebody who struck me as a retired teacher complained about the quality of the snacks a company served in the previous year's meetings. She described them as not commensurate to the profits the company had earned.

Another expressed reluctance about attending a particular meeting because he felt the company's Caucasian-looking directors were snooty and did not treat them with respect.

A serious-looking member of the group showed some concern in a company's financial statements that he planned to question for being inaccurate and misleading.

The conversation I overheard ended when someone reminded that a colleague was "retiring to action" because he recently suffered a heart attack and passed away.

Participation

At the stockholders' meetings, "professional" shareholders often get a round of applause whenever they ask to speak or are seen marching for the floor microphone.

To add some drama to their appearances, some chairs of meetings store their full name when they ask for permission to take the floor. That announcement becomes the cue for the audience to sit up and listen with amusement.

These stockholders provide welcome interludens cannot relief to the routine motions made during the proceedings.

They usually start by congratulating management for doing a good job and, if there are employees who-

CORPORATE 11

RUSH SALE LOT
CUBAO BANAHAW ST. 1100 SQM.
25 MTR FRONTAGE NEAR EDSA
FOR EXECUTIVE CONDO/WAREHOUSE
TERMINAL SPC BLDG NEAR HRT ACROSS
ARANETA CENTER DIRECT BUYERS
CALL/TX : 0920000 - 09173626410

PRULINK — PRU LIFE UK

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week June 3, 2008	Last Week May 27, 2008
Bond Fund - Peso	1.0000	1.0000
Managed Fund - Peso	1.0000	1.0000
Growth Fund - Peso	1.0000	1.0000
Equity Fund - Peso	0.7142	0.7142
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.0000	1.0000

Best Practices Update for Developers, Contractors, A&E Firms, Realty Managers, Builders

A 3-Day Seminar on EFFECTIVE CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT
June 24, 25, 26 – 8:00-5:00 PM
ADB Conference Center, Ortigas Ctr., Makati City

Topics: Project Management Overview, COST Management, TIME Management, QUALITY Management, Construction Planning, Effective Communication Seminar Fee P6,700 includes 3-day series, snacks, and handouts in CD.

To reserve seats, please contact: Mila, Boyet.
Tel. No. 890-4000, 892-6151, Email: mila@resourcelinks.com

A new networking opportunity from
RESOURCE GROUP
Corporate Business since 1978

MANIGURO!
Pag AGUA VIDA
Walang Duda!

Isa dami ng water refilling stations, marami sa kin, kampante lang. Hindi nagsusuka. Tulad ko sa napaling ina, dapat tanungin:

Purified water niya ba?
Pinapahan ba regularly ang filter at reverse osmosis membranes?

Alam niya ba na ang Agua Vida ay may Quality Assurance Team na gumagawa ng regular quality check-ups ng Water Refilling Stations nito? Kaya siguradong malinis at purified ang drinking water dito.

Agua Vida ay eksperto sa water purification. Mula 1994, sa isa sa mga pioneer ng Water Refilling Business. Kaya naman hanggang ngayon, pinagkakatiwalaan, inaasahan at mahalimaguro ka sa Agua Vida.

Kaya bilad ka, maniguro! Mag-Agua Vida!

Mel Tiangco

AGUA VIDA

For franchise inquiries, please call: 640-90-83 to 86

LandBank seeks to rehabilitate Picop, sister firm

As paper company's losses mount, creditor turns to Makati trial court

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

PICOP RESOURCES CORP. YESTERDAY said that its creditor, Land Bank of the Philippines, had sought to rehabilitate the listed paper and plywood maker along with its subsidiary, New Paper Industries Corp. (NPIC).

NPIC is the sole-off paper operations company of Picop and is a wholly owned unit.

In its disclosure yesterday, Picop corporate information officer Hazel Que said its officials were informed by LandBank that a petition for rehabilitation of Picop and New Paper had been filed with the Makati Regional Trial Court.

As a result, the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday suspended trade on the shares of the listed firm.

"A file copy of the petition was provided in lieu of a formal copy which had not been received," Que told the stock exchange. "A meeting of the company's board of directors is being convened ... to discuss the company's new course of action in light of such filing."

Before its trading was suspended, Picop shares closed at 26.5 centavos on June 4.

In its petition, LandBank said that it expects Picop and NPIC "to commence operating, in view of its massive impact" on other businesses where the companies maintain presence.

No Picop official was available for comment. When the business got in touch with Que, she said details of the proceedings could only be provided by the president of the company, who was reported to be abroad.

LandBank officials were also unavailable for comment at press time.

During the first quarter, Picop said it suffered net losses of P202 million—148.09 percent greater than the loss of the same quarter last year. Losses from operations swelled to P127 million—3.31 times higher than the losses incurred during the same period a year ago.

Revenue as of March 31 stood at P164 million. It was 40.47 percent lower compared with the same period last year. Sales for paper products for the quarter decreased by P31 million, or 18.15 percent, over that of last year, while sales of timber products decreased by P67 million, or 95.13 percent.

Picop said lower sales of paper products was mainly due to the decrease in sales volume of all paper products from 8,230 metric tons last year to 6,240 metric tons this year. Average selling prices however increased by 7.35 percent.

On the other hand, the decrease in timber products sales for the first quarter of 2008 was due to lower sales volume and selling prices. For logs, sales volume decreased by 10,155 cubic meters from that of last year. Selling prices likewise went down 50 percent.

Picop, formerly Bislig Industries Inc., was privatized in March 1994 through a public bidding that covered 183.1 million shares, or 90 percent of the government's stake.

Since 1994, control of the firm changed hands three times. It is now under the control of TP Holdings Inc.

Ashmore to buy out Petron minority shares

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

PETRON CORP. SAYS LONDON-BASED fund Ashmore Group would proceed with an offer to buy out minority shareholders, according to rules set by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

SEC Chairperson Fe Barin reportedly secretary Lois Magkaya said that Ashmore had confirmed that it would conduct a "tender offer."

Under the SEC's rules, an investor who acquires at least 35 percent of a listed company must offer to buy out other shareholders at the same price agreed upon with the block seller.

"It is not overwhelming that Ashmore will make available the tender offer to all Petron shareholders and will be complying with SEC requirements," Magkaya said.

The statement was issued after Philippine Stock Exchange president Francis Lim said Petron was not exempt from the tender offer rule.

"As far as I'm concerned, if it crosses the 35-percent threshold, [Petron] is subject to the tender offer rule," Lim told the locators. "So it's not here ... that's my legal opinion."

Petron announced that London-based Ashmore Group had offered to buy Saudi Aramco's 3.75 billion shares in Petron through its unit, SEA Refinery Holdings, for $556 million.

Saudi Aramco, the world's largest producer of crude oil, supplies the crude oil requirement of Petron, which accounts for about 40 percent of Philippine fuel requirements.

Its unit, Aramco Overseas Co., holds a 98 percent stake in Petron. Another 40 percent is held by its government Philippine Investment Corp. (PHIC).

The remaining 20 percent of Petron is listed on the stock exchange.

Last week, investors applauded Petron shares over worries that Ashmore would not make a tender offer to all other shareholders.

Petron's share price tumbled 0.5 percent to close at P5.10 each at the Philippine Stock Exchange as about P477.85 million worth of shares were dumped due to uncertainties on the mandatory tender offer, brokers said last Friday.

Joseph Bernas of Eagle Equities Inc. said there were fears that Ashmore would skirt the mandatory tender offer rule.

PSE reports no takers of inactive brokers' shares

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE REported that there were no takers of PSE shares held by two inactive brokers during an auction held last Tuesday.

According to PSE president Francis Lim, the PSE will go to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to secure the regulator's approval to dispose of the shares held by these brokers by other means.

One option the PSE is considering involves the conduct of a "dacion-en-pago," or the swap of debt with shares in partial payment of client claims against these brokers, Lim said.

The PSE earlier announced it would sell in one block a total of 300,000 shares held by inactive brokers Asian Capital Equities Inc. (ACEI) and Mantes Dhandee y Cia (MD).

The PSE stock that were supposed to be sold last June 3 consisted of 50,000 shares held by ACEI and 50,000 shares of MD.

According to sources, proceeds from the auction were supposed to be used to partly settle claims of clients against the brokers. The claims against ACEI reached P1.28 million, while that against MD amounted to less than P50 million.

The PSE earlier said the trading right of defunct brokerage firm ACEI, for P12.3 million, shalling up a new record for the bourse.

A trading right is a privilege that serves as requirement before a holder or owner can become a trading participant in the PSE.

The SEC ordered PSE to sell by public auction the trading right as part of a process to liquidate the assets of ACEI, a stock brokerage company that collapsed in 2003.

Lim had said the PSE will use proceeds from the sale of the trading right to cover payments to 24 clients "who were hurt by the fall of the stock brokerage firm."

A joint audit, which was conducted by the PSE and the SEC shortly before the company's collapse, uncovered questionable deals and accounts. —Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

BUSINESS *Friday*

BPO industry keeps Cebu retailers afloat

INCREASE in the number of Cebuanos employed in the business process outsourcing sector has helped keep the retail industry afloat

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao
and Irene R. Sino Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—THE DRAMATIC increase in the number of Cebuanos employed by the booming business process outsourcing sector has helped keep the retail industry here afloat despite rising costs of goods and services and the downturn in most export markets led by the United States.

With more people employed in BPO firms such as call centers, more disposable income is flowing to easy into the retail industry.

These generally young staffers, after all, are ready to spend on clothes, cellular phones, food and pampering services such as a massage or a manicure.

Industry estimates place the number of employees of the Cebu BPO sector at about 30,000. As more companies set up in Cebu, the number is expected to reach 100,000 to about two years, with each earning at least P18,000 a month.

Jay Aldeguer, Cebu chapter president of the Philippine Retailers Association, said that thanks to the better-than-expected growth in the BPO industry, the retail industry here is able to meet the challenges posed by spiraling inflation.

"Families, the prices are rewarding people rise insanely relative to," Aldeguer said. "The fuss is there and people have become more prudent in their spending. But because of the BPO industry, the retail industry is managing to stay afloat."

Despite the difficult times abroad, Cebu's economy is now one already preparing for the inevitable rebound, which is evidenced by the almost simultaneous construction of malls in the city center.

Cebu Holdings Inc., an affiliate of Ayala Land Inc., would be opening second—its P700 million, 60,000-square-meter Parkmall in Mandaue City—by December.

Cebu Holdings Corp. is pushing up another P80 million in a retail strip project inside the Asiatown IT Park.

SM City Cebu, meanwhile, spent about P500 million for the construction of SM City Consolacion that houses mostly high-end brands.

The SM group has also laid out plans to invest millions in the construction of Savemore supermarket branches in the province. It already has three in operation and more are in the pipeline.

Another retail development, Parkendall 168, is scheduled to be built on a three-hectare lot at the Mandaue-Cebu Reclamation Area.

These companies firmly believe that the local retail industry will get even any bump on its way to further growth.

"We are on an expansion mode because Cebu is a good beneficiary of IT and tourism industries, which are in cases driving population consumption, on top of the fuss Cebu receives a lot of remittances," said CDE president Francis Homeres.

"We are growing our own retail business given these opportunities," he added.

Meanwhile, SM hopes that the building of the Cebu counterpart of the Outstanding Filipino Retailer award will give local retailers additional incentive to further improve their operations.

Aldeguer said the awards seeks to recognize Cebuano retailers who have become successful in terms of growth and good ethical practices.

He said businessmen Cebuano retailers who have been named Most Promising Retailer for at least seven years and in operation for at least five years are eligible for the award.

Aldeguer noted that a number of Cebu retailers had already won awards at the national level.

Those include Westhippo and Aldeguer's Islands Enterprises.

Aldeguer said the PRA would recognize the top 10 retailers during the 2nd Cebu Regional Retail Conference scheduled on June 21.

Yaboo! ads for SMEs

By Riza T. Olchondra

THINK THAT OVER 500,000 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are looking for some effective way to promote their products here and abroad, search giant Yahoo has come up with its sponsored search advertising platform to tap into this growing market.

In the Philippines alone, retail spending is estimated to hit P134 billion in 2007, said Yahoo! Philippines general manager Jojo Abaocaran, and only 3 percent went to online advertising, which shows there was much room for growth.

"We see this mode of advertising becoming more and more popular," he said. "We're expecting this share to grow to 2-5 percent this year, with new advertising platforms such as ours... It's about 10 percent to more mature economies so there is a lot of room for growth."

The marketing product uses the pay-per-click model of advertisers can bid for desired keywords for as little as $0.01.

Particular keyword bidding can get expensive in Yahoo! by display search and mobile platforms for an agreed period.

But Yahoo! has to play catch-up with early player Google, which has already launched its pay-per-click model in the Philippines, called *AdWords*.

Yahoo! also has to contend with local players such as 3G company G3BE, a subsidiary of Smart Communications, which is tapping the mobile advertising market by enlisting midmarket-based websites for every ad they receive on their mobile phone.

"There are a lot of untapped opportunities. Online advertising in Southeast Asia is expected to grow 41 percent annually to $48 billion this year," he said. "And while we are not very familiar with the model of G3BE, we still have a relevance edge because when over a mobile user surfs the Internet on his phone, he would still see ads spontaneously each months."

Yahoo! has an estimated 138 million users in the emerging markets of Southeast Asia, India and Latin America and it expects to grow online advertising revenues in these markets, including the Philippines, above the industry's 30 percent growth rate over the next three years.

"For many users in the emerging markets, the only way to get online is through a mobile device, for us, the key is delivering a locally relevant product on a mobile platform," said Prashant Mehta, Yahoo!'s vice president for emerging markets.

Abaocaran said advertisers could reach 5.3 million new Yahoo! users in Southeast Asia and 500 million more around the globe.

"The good thing is advertisers only pay whenever someone clicks on their ad. Even if they bused in, say, Cebu and sat in Manila or Hong Kong or Singapore, they can reach those users without having to put up a marketing office," Abaocaran said.

Southeast Asia, India and Latin America are Yahoo's top priorities for online advertising.

According to a May 2007 study by Internet research firm comScore, Yahoo sites are the most popular in the Asia Pacific region, followed by Microsoft and Google sites. Yahoo sites ranked in the top position for six of the 10 countries surveyed.

The survey covered people aged 15 years or older and excluded traffic from public computers such as Internet cafés or Web access from mobile devices.

Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Australia, where the proportion of Internet users is above 20 percent, look particularly promising for online advertisers, Mehta said.

Only about 2 percent of total advertising dollars are spent online in emerging markets, compared with over 13 percent in the US and 10 percent in the United States.

"These markets are hitting the tipping point. As Internet user penetration grows, we see a significant change in the percentage of advertisers willing to participate with us in this medium," he said. With a report from Reuters

'Is being first really better than being better?'

Q: WHEN WE ATTENDED THE AL RIES seminar for 2000, one of the many useful insights we learned was about being the "first mover." His quotable, one-liner "mantra" is that "in the world of the mind, "Being first is better than being better."

We're a local company in the packaged snacks category. We've had two successful products that were both late-comers. But they both performed better in sales than their merged first pioneers. These two cases of exceptions to Al Ries "immutable law" got us thinking that what we regard as successful and immutable character. And we know of several other late entrants that also succeeded against the pioneers.

From our two successes, we've derived our own guide for new product development and sales. It says simply: "Do not innovate. Just imitate the new but in imitating be sure you're perceptively better in the consumers (than what you imitated)." For local companies who are similarly situated like us (and, as we already said, we know quite a number of them), we've improved on Al Ries' law. We've reformulated it thus: "Being much better afterwards is better than being first."

Is Al Ries's law never meant to have universal application? He has been to developing countries like the Philippines where he knows that local companies do not have the deep pockets to go into basic product development research that a first mover product requires. As he once said, "Being much better afterwards is better than being first." Or is our formulation a true "being much better afterwards is better than being first."?

A: Al Ries's law is never meant to have universal application!! He has been to developing countries like the Philippines where he knows that local companies do not have the deep pockets to go into basic product development research that a first mover product requires. As he once said, "Being much better afterwards is better than being first." Or is our formulation a true "being much better afterwards is better than being first."?

Actually, we've been very much in agreement with your second guide for new product development and sales. It says simply: "Do not innovate. Just imitate the new but in imitating be sure you're perceptively better in the consumers (than what you imitated)." For local companies who are similarly situated like us (and, as we already said, we know quite a number of them), we've improved on Al Ries' law. We've reformulated it thus: "Being much better afterwards is better than being first."

Is Al Ries's law never meant to have universal application!! For his fuss here in

Water utilities told to upgrade sewerage system

By Amy R. Remo

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL Resources Secretary Lito Atienza yesterday urged concessionaires Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. to immediately provide a sewerage system in Metro Manila to protect human health and the environment.

"It is the moral and legal obligation of the two water concessionaires to provide a sewerage system in their concession areas in Metro Manila," Atienza said in a statement.

Atienza stressed that it has become more vital to address the sewerage problem due to the serious degradation of water quality of Manila Bay, Pasig River and Laguna Lake, which now serve as the so-called septic tank of the metropolis.

The environment chief noted that only 5.6 percent of Metro Manila's households are connected to a sewerage system.

Bandera

Bandera also reigns in Visayas

THE REAL #1 IN MINDANAO BASED ON RECORD

Media Index Wave 2, 2007

Media Index Wave 1, 2007

Media Index Wave 2, 2006

Media Index Wave 1, 2006

Ha! Ha!

FABER-CASTELL

TRUE GEL

acer

Acer recommends Windows Vista® Ultimate.

ASPIRE

Individualistic. Distinct. Unique.

Aspire 6920G-832G32Bn

Hari ka dito!

LBC BANK

Royal treatment para sa lahat – businessman, OFW, entrepreneur, chikiting. Iba't-ibang serbisyo, ibang-iba mag-asikaso ang LBC Bank.

LBC BANK. MAY LAKAS NG MAKAKAHAN, MAKAKAKALARI.

MAGBIBIGAY LOAN NA KALAKIHAN, SEGURADONG MALALAPITAN.

LBC BANK

Bangko ng Kan

intel Centrino

Performance to go

7 groups seen vying for Limay power plant

Combined-cycle facility one of 14 plants up for bidding

By Abigail L. Ho

SEVEN FOREIGN AND LOCAL investor groups are keen on acquiring the 620-megawatt (MW) Limay combined-cycle power plant in Bataan, which Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. will bid out on July 30.

In a statement issued yesterday, PSALM said that of the seven groups that met the May 30 deadline for the submission of initial requirements, two were local firms and five were foreign companies.

PSALM said the plant would be bid out with one power supply contract attached to it since the facility operated only as a peaking plant. This means that the new owner would have to trade the plant's output in the wholesale electricity spot market.

PSALM said the plant would be sold on an "as is, where is" basis. PSALM said the new owner could service its shareholder loans faithfully by converting it into a natural gas-fired power plant.

Potential bidders can conduct due diligence on the Limay power plant from May 23 to June 27, with the actual bidding to be held on July 30.

The Limay plant, commissioned in 1993, has two 310-MW gas turbine combined-cycle power plants in Bataan, which Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. will bid out on July 30.

In a statement issued yesterday, PSALM said that of the seven groups that met the May 30 deadline for the submission of initial requirements, two were local firms and five were foreign companies.

PSALM said the plant would be bid out with one power supply contract attached to it since the facility operated only as a peaking plant. This means that the new owner would have to trade the plant's output in the wholesale electricity spot market.

PSALM said the plant would be sold on an "as is, where is" basis. PSALM said the new owner could service its shareholder loans faithfully by converting it into a natural gas-fired power plant.

Potential bidders can conduct due diligence on the Limay power plant from May 23 to June 27, with the actual bidding to be held on July 30.

The Limay plant, commissioned in 1993, has two 310-MW gas turbine combined-cycle power plants in Bataan, which Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. will bid out on July 30.

In a statement issued yesterday, PSALM said that of the seven groups that met the May 30 deadline for the submission of initial requirements, two were local firms and five were foreign companies.

PSALM said the plant would be bid out with one power supply contract attached to it since the facility operated only as a peaking plant. This means that the new owner would have to trade the plant's output in the wholesale electricity spot market.

PSALM said the plant would be sold on an "as is, where is" basis. PSALM said the new owner could service its shareholder loans faithfully by converting it into a natural gas-fired power plant.

Potential bidders can conduct due diligence on the Limay power plant from May 23 to June 27, with the actual bidding to be held on July 30.

Food production solution

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

ON JUNE 6, INQUIRER BUSINESS editor Raul Manotoc reported the following from Rome: "World food production must rise by 50 percent by 2030 to meet increasing demand, United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday told world leaders at a summit grappling with hunger and civil unrest caused by food price rises."

In the UN Food and Agriculture Organization website (FAO.org), FAO head Jacques Diouf reports: "Rising food prices are causing severe hardship and suffering ... The most recent solutions to the problem of food security in the world lies in increasing production and productivity in the low-income, food-deficit countries."

But 50-more's proposed 50 percent food production increase must still be added to the plan, with emphasis on "farmer choice." Consequently, investment given to plantation workers will be the norm, regardless which choice the farmer makes.

- Since people's organizations (POs) and nongovernment organizations (NGO) were hardly mentioned in the plan despite their critical roles in making the plan successful, there is the need to explicitly define it. This will include mobilizing the LGUs in achieving rice self-sufficiency goals, helping organize farmers into clusters for economies of scale, and helping provide the training, technology transfer and support services for the farmers.

- The choice of irrigation systems support and budget allocation will now be largely determined using the optimal resource allocation and return on investment (ROI) criteria. This may or can get the maximum benefit from the still very limited government resources. The 2008 rice plan budget is P34.9 billion, only one-third of the previously announced P93.7 billion budget for food supply support.

- When financing institutions are now included as additional alternates for extending small farmer credit. This is important, because small farmers who cannot comply with the collateral and papers requirements of traditional banks can now access credit through these micro-financing institutions. In addition, mechanisms such as the National Food Authority's Buyback Option to Buy Back Program will be strengthened, where the farmer has the option, to buy back or sell his or her palay at a higher price to other buyers, at a later date.

Palayamanan

The above plan improvements certainly contribute to the government's overall goal of increasing food production and productivity to answer the problem of food security. But a significant added improvement is the emphasis given to Palayamanan, a program that promotes sustainable agriculture, organic rice, and organic-based food production. It combines rice with other high-value production such as vegetables and livestock, and promotes biomass recycling. It represents the efficient use of available farm resources and highlights the interconnection between soils resources and hydrology through modern technologies.

After having been started in 2002 and achieving great success in 2006 and 2007, Philrice executive director Lee Sebastian says: "This program will have more than a hundredfold increase in budget support and attention for the next two years."

The Globe here echoes the pro-Jatropa (or castor) bean (see banner following Palayamanan) item: information on this, and the Palay Check, a guide to maximize palay production) can be obtained from www.philrice.gov.ph, with a help unit line at (049)511-1861, 511-1862, 511-1863 and 511-1870/87 and deputy executive director Mahlowa Casimiro (09209088557) have generously consented to be contacted directly on this program.

With the rice self-sufficiency plan and its improvements, programs like Palayamanan and the BA-officials that we have recently talked to, we may be well on our path to achieving food security.

The author is chair of Agriculture, farmer secretary for President Fidel Ramos, Philippine Ports Authority general manager, and former undersecretary for Agriculture. He welcomes feedback, for inquiries and suggestions, e-mail agriecon@philippinecountry.com or telephone (02) 920-2133.

CASH BENEFITS (2006*)

CROPS			
Rice	36,000	17,000	19,000
Vegetables	30,000	10,000	20,000
LIVELIHOOD			
Tilapia	4,000	1,000	3,000
Hogs	30,000	15,000	15,000
10 chickens	1,000	600.00	1,000
TOTAL	110,000	44,000	108,000

*2006 data used as it is more typical; 2007 data is not yet available

COMMENTARY

RLC to issue 5-yr notes

ROBINSONS LAND CORP. SAID it would raise P2 billion to pare its bond debt. P2B billion expansion plan for this year.

RLC corporate secretary Ma. Aurelia Soriano said the amount would be raised through the issuance of five-year corporate notes to not more than 15 institutional lenders.

The notes will have a term of 5 years and 1 day.

RLC had tapped The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd. as the lead manager for the placement, distribution and sale of the notes.

RLC earlier said it was setting aside P30 billion for capital expenditures this year, higher than the P7-P8 billion spent in 2007.

RLC is a major real estate player in the Philippines with a growing portfolio that covers various operations involving shopping centers, high-rise residential condominiums and townhouses, mid- to low-cost housing and subdivisions, office buildings as well as hotels.

Elizabeth Jacinto-Lucas

Coors-ABI venture takes aim at SMB market hold

COORS RECEIVES a miniature jeepney from ABI chair Lucio Tan as a reminder of his first visit to the Philippines. Coors is to have its new ABI executives for updates on their 10-month-old partnership.

By Doxie L. Lucas

THE LOCAL BEER MARKET CONTINUES to present significant upside for growth, with many consumers eager to experience alternatives to the dominant manufacturers according to the head of US-based beer brewer Molson Coors.

In an interview, company chair Peter Coors expressed confidence that his company would make deeper inroads into the Philippine beer market with its Coors and Coors Light brands, despite the large market share held by San Miguel Brewery.

Molson Coors is a brewing joint venture agreement with Asia Brewery Inc. of tycoon Lucio Tan, whereby the former provides its technical expertise while the latter contributes its manufacturing and distribution facilities as well as funds.

Coors visited the country yesterday to inspect the company's operations.

"It's been a dramatic introduction," he said. "Coors Light is a new brand for this market. But exposed people to it, and we're very pleased with the progress we've made so far."

The joint venture arrangement calls for Asia Brewery to manufacture and distribute the US firm's two flagship brands, Coors and Coors Light, but's are priced similarly to their rival San Miguel products.

"In terms of business planning, on how the beer is brewed," Coors said. "Then, together, we develop a business plan. After that, [Asia Brewery] is responsible for marketing, with acquiring them advice."

Molson Coors Asia-Pacific head George Metcalfe added that the recent changes in the landscape of the local beer market also presented significant opportunities for the Coors-Asia Brewery tie-up to capture a greater number of consumers.

"The market is looking for something new, especially in light beers," he said. "What we saw in a real hunger, not only for lighter tasting beers, but something that has more energy."

Apart from the beer itself, Coors is also banking on its "thermochromic" bottle label, which changes color depending on the temperature of the contents inside.

This allows the consumer to determine the beer's temperature simply by looking at the color of the label and enhances the beer drinking experience.

"No one wants to drink warm beer," Coors said, adding that the "color-added" service enhanced the marketability of the product, especially among younger drinkers.

The label—which uses proprietary technology from Coors—is manufactured in the United Kingdom and is shipped to the Philippines for Asia Brewery to attach to the bottles during the manufacturing process.

Coors said that establishing a firm foothold in the local market will take time, and that the joint venture deal will first Brewery is a long-term undertaking.

"We admire Asia Brewery's discipline," he said. "This will not happen overnight because it takes time to penetrate a market, but we are here for the long run."

Water . . .

From page B1

"This means the wastewater that comes from our septic tanks goes straight to the drainage system that empties directly to water bodies," he added.

Atienza added that 90 percent of domestic wastewater discharge in Metro Manila, which includes human and animal wastes, went inadequately treated.

Atienza stressed that "efforts to clean up these important bodies of water in the metropolis would be half-done, if we are remiss in fulfilling with wastewater in several hundreds of thousands of households directly discharging into the clean water bodies."

"Mayroon and Manila Water are making all Metro Manila residents contributors to water pollution with their failure to fulfill their obligations," he added.

He added that both Maynilad and Manila Water have for years been collecting a monthly sewerage fee from their clients.

"The sewerage fee is meant to pay for the provision of sewerage services. The amount they have collected must be spent for its intended purpose. Where is the money? How much has already been collected?" Antonio said.

Manila Water provides water services and is responsible for the sewerage services to 5.1 million residents in the east zone of Metro Manila. This area comprises Makati, Pasig, Mandaluyong, Marikina, most parts of Quezon City, some parts of Manila, San Juan, Taguig and Pateros.

Maynilad, meanwhile, covers the west zone covering most parts of Manila, eight other cities and two municipalities in Metro Manila as well as one city and five towns in Cavite.

Peso further weakens to 44.07:$1

From page B1

"It highlights market's fear over rising inflation," finance do-Ore Unibank chief economist Jonathan Ravelas said. "The close pare 44.30 to right."

Ravelas projected the trading range today at 43.90 to 44.30.

Last year, the peso was Asia's top-performing currency when it gained by nearly 13 percent against the US dollar for the first time in three consecutive years, it has since given up 6.3 percent of that gain this year, making it the third-weakest currency in the region next to the Korean won and the Indian rupee.

The Korean won fell by nearly 9 percent while the Indian rupee declined by nearly 8 percent against the greenback since the start of this year.

Currency traders said the peso would have slipped further yesterday if not for the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' decision to sell US dollars.

The foreign exchange market was also driven ahead of the BSP's monetary board meeting yesterday. Most dealers have factored in a quarters percentage rise in the benchmark interest rate. (See story on Page A11).

For the government's budgeting purposes, the BSP and of her agencies pare of the lease agency Development Budget Coordination Committee, have assumed that the peso-dollar exchange rate would range from 42 to 45 against the dollar this year and the next.

Corporate Securities Info

From page B4

were extra nice to them, not that they be commercialized. Or better still, promoted.

The latter numerous never fails to draw laughter from the crowd and enthusiasm for the employees mentioned.

In case the company had earlier declared stock or cash dividends, expect the following remarks to include a request to increase the amount of the dividends or make more dividend declarations.

The natural reaction of the audience is that plea is to express approval by clapping loudly.

On the part of management, its response would either be a Mona Lisa-style smile or a playing-to-the-crowd remark: "we shall study your request but cannot make any commitment."

Activities

Some of the companies that have "current" stockholders within their ranks generally look forward to their attendance in annual meetings.

Their presence adds a public flavor to the proceedings. With their witty remarks and scandalous funny antics, the entire atmosphere becomes less formal and stiff.

I recall that some years back, a company that considered one of those stockholders in lucky shares made sure she was always present. As air-conditioned car picked her up, brought her to the site in a wheelchair, and dressed her/made in her house after the meeting.

After getting used to their chiquinessy presence, some corporations feel something's missing when these stockholders are absent.

The feeling is mutual though. A number of this group told me that their year is not complete if they fail to attend the meetings. Only serious physical disability, and of course, death, can prevent them from doing so.

A corporate secretary once jokingly remarked that the desire to attend these corporate rituals probably adds to the longevity of these stockholders!

It only for this reason, "current stockholders" deserve the support of their companies.

For feedback, please write to cpadelao@inquirer.com.ph.

Shares close 1.97% lower

From page B1

2,718.42. The all-share index was down 26.84 points to 1,387.87 points.

There were 21 advancers and 31 decliners, while 63 stocks were unchanged. Turnover rose to P2.939 billion (837.8 million). from P2.3 billion on Wednesday.

"The market is down because of the inflation figures," said Alan Antolin of Regina Capital Development Corp.

Inflation reached a nine-year high of 9.6 percent in May.

The market was also weighed down by expectations that monetary authorities would announce the increase in key interest rates to cope with higher inflation. AFP

Investments hit ₱114B as of April

By Abigail L. Ho

APPROVED INVESTMENTS AS OF APRIL hit ₱113.65 billion, 54 percent more than the ₱73.83 billion pledged in the same period last year, with the bulk going into the electricity, gas and water supply sectors.

According to data from the Department of Trade and Industry, the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority approved projects worth ₱75.50 billion and ₱38.14 billion, respectively.

Trade Secretary Peter Favila said these commitments translate to 371 projects should guarantee 54,373 new jobs.

The utilities segment—composed of the electricity, gas and water supply sectors—attracted ₱43.25 billion worth of investment commitments, 298 percent more than the ₱10.85 billion registered in the same period last year.

"Investors are currently reading the country's need for more power and water supply in the near future. These projects have a long gestation period and will be very welcome once they become operational, just in time to meet the growing need of industries and the population," Favila said.

Real estate investments likewise surged to ₱17.31 billion in the first four months from ₱14.81 billion in the same period in 2007 due to the increase in demand for office space by subcontractor technology and business process outsourcing firms and mass housing.

Investments in the infrastructure and industrial service segment reached ₱13.89 billion, while those for transport, storage and communication hit ₱7.20 billion.

While most investment sectors expanded, investments in the manufacturing segment contracted 38 percent to ₱36.43 billion from ₱59.31 billion.

Information technology, a significant component of the manufacturing sector, clothed up only ₱4.07 billion worth of investments in the January-July period, 33 percent lower than last year's ₱6.02 billion.

Of the investments, local investors accounted for ₱65.68 billion while foreign investors concentred ₱33.57 billion.

Topping the list of foreign investors were those from South Korea, United Kingdom and United States with ₱28.5 billion, ₱11.5 billion and ₱6.42 billion in investments, respectively.

Most of the investments registered by the South Korean and British firms were in the power sector.

Despite the delay in the ratification of the Japan-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement, Japanese firms infused ₱6.1 billion in the country in the first four months of the year.

Utilities industry gets lion's share

DOF to hear tax woes of insurance firms

By Michelle V. Abanes

FINANCE SECRETARY MARGIE-Jim Teves said Insurance Commissioner Edmund Mallum are scheduled to meet with the insurance industry to discuss the sector's grave concerns over the implementation of a controversial tax measure.

"The insurance industry will meet with me and Secretary Teves to discuss this matter," Mallum said yesterday on the sidelines of the launch of new insurance products by Pioneer Life Insurance Inc.

According to Lorenzo Cleto, president and chief executive officer of Pioneer Life, the insurance industry in the Philippines is the most heavily taxed in the region.

"The government is eyeing to levy new taxes. That is why the insurance industry here in the Philippines is the most heavily taxed in the region and has been listed in consequently," said Cleto in a briefing after the launch of Spare and Spares—the two new micro insurance products of Pioneer.

One of the tax provisions opposed by the life insurance industry is the documentary stamp tax on insurance policies on top of the DST charged on premiums.

The multi-billion insurance industry, meanwhile, opposed a provision of Revenue Memorandum Circular 30-2008 which said that commissions paid to insurance agents would no longer be deducted from gross revenues.

In fact, the BIR has not responded to pleas to lift or amend the circular.

BIR Commissioner Lilian Hefti earlier said the regulations did not impose new taxes but merely "clarified" the tax liabilities of certain sectors, such as insurance, as stated by the Tax Code.

This is part of efforts by the BIR to plug revenue leaks.

Hefti explained that it was prudent for the BIR to make sure that business sectors pay their taxes, especially with its clamoring goal to raise P645 billion to meet this year.

Get **competitive rates** and a chance to **win P1 Million** a month and **P5 Million** in the grand draw.

	$1,000 to 9,999	$10,000 to 49,999	$50,000 to 99,999	$100,000 and up
1 month	2.000%	2.000%	2.750%	3.000%
2 months	2.000%	2.000%	2.750%	3.000%
3 months	2.000%	2.000%	2.750%	3.000%

Hurry! Join now for a minimum deposit of US $1,000 only. Promo runs up to July 15, 2008.

PSBank US Dollar Time Deposit

Liberty still has 700MHz, says NTC

By Rita T. Olchondra

LIBERTY BROADCASTING NETWORK Inc. (LBNI) still has the rights to the 700MHz frequency band granted by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), said Commissioner Ruben Canoñero.

"The frequency will not be taken from Liberty unless it (the company) is dissolved," said Canoñero in a briefing yesterday at the NTC office in Quezon City.

Canoñero said the NTC had received applications from other telecommunications companies such as Smart Broadband Inc. (SBI) to take over the frequency.

But he said the NTC would not process those until Liberty is deemed unable to use the frequency considered by its creditors as one of its few remaining assets.

Last month, the Makati Regional Trial Court ordered Canoñero and other NTC officials to shed light on claims that the agency had allowed the takeover of five spectrum assigned to LBNI to other firms, which is against the interest of creditors including Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC).

RCBC had asked the courts to direct the NTC to explain some information it had received that the radio frequency currently in LBNI was allocated to Philippine Long Distance Telephone Inc. (PLDT) subsidiary SBI without court approval.

The bank claimed that based on NTC records, LBNI's proposed Wibbsat network under the 700 MHz frequency was no longer possible since SBI had applied for and reportedly been granted and allocated this particular bandwidth.

The WiMAX, or Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access, technology allows data to be carried wirelessly over long distances, making it an alternative to cable and High Speed Packet Access or HSPA.

"In this connection, the honorable court may direct the respondents (NTC) and other NTC officials to inform the court of the allocation or assignment of the 700 MHz frequency," RCBC said.

In August 2005, the Liberty group of companies filed a petition for corporate rehabilitation, which was approved on December 2006.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE NCR Building, 851 Intramuros St., Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following corporations/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits.

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National (nationality)	Position
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

Yves Saint Laurent left his mark on Filipino designers

The genius embraced the pain of creation more than he did life

By Thelma Sioson San Juan

YOU HAVE BEEN WEARING an "Yves Saint Laurent" —without you knowing it.

Of course, we don't mean the brand. We mean the iconic stylist Yves Saint Laurent has given fashion for nearly five decades, from the trousers suits or what you know as peasant dresses, and what your daughter now calls "boho chic."

Fashion is a never-ending evolution—and cycle—and Saint Laurent—the genius who endured pain of creation more than he did life—had always been at the core of this evolution.

He greatly influenced the foremost Filipino fashion designers. During his unprecedented career, Saint Laurent was also at their most productive, competitive and versatile stage. It was the golden era of Philippine fashion that gave rise to today's iconic figures. From the time I started interviewing and covering the likes of Auggie Cordero, I heard no fashion czar's name dropped more often than Yves Saint Laurent.

Saint Laurent was the reference for the most tailoring and sleek silhouettes of Cordero and Inno Sotto. Jeanne Gonzalez's corporate woman look in the heyday of Philippine ready-to-wear was inspired by a Saint Laurent; Cesar Gopuco's bold color play heeded Saint Laurent's example.

It's been said that no designer has affected boobies and waistline as much as YSL did.

That's no exaggeration. Unlike Dior and Chanel, YSL was there for a much longer period—five decades—positioning collections four times a year, particularly when he also started his RTW Rive Gauche line. This was a challenge to human creativity that took its toll on the man's physical and psychic health. As his longtime business partner and companion Pierre Berge said, YSL "was born with a nervous breakdown."

Christian Lacroix explained how YSL was a league all his own: "There have been other great designers in this century, but none with the same range as Saint Laurent. Chanel, Schiaparelli, Balenciaga and Dior

TURN TO

SUPERMODEL Anna Bayle wearing Yves Saint Laurent

Pinoy designers pay tribute to YSL

'Saint Laurent, Chanel and Dior were the most influential designers of fashion—in silhouette, approach and the way of dressing women of their generation'

By Chucha V. Floral

AS THE WORLD OF FASHION mourns the death of Yves Saint Laurent, who died Sunday at age 71 in Paris, France, iconic fashion's foremost women also look back on how one of the world's greatest designers had influenced their own careers.

"He had a grasp of the modern woman in that particular point in time, as that in anything I do, I've always been very conscious of that," Inno Soto says of the time when five women in sweater suits (1966) and see-through dresses (1968).

Born in 1936 in Algeria, Christian Dior hired Saint Laurent as an assistant when the latter was just a teenager. Saint Laurent would eventually take over the House of Dior following his mentor's sudden death in 1957. He was only 21 years old.

"Coco Chanel, Christian Dior and Saint Laurent were the most influential designers of fashion, in terms of silhouette, in terms of approach, in the way of dressing women of their generation," Soto says.

"When I was studying in the US," Soto adds, "he was the designer. I was conscious of his work, in [store] windows, in magazines. He had a sense of theater and presentation, of himself, of his brand, of who he was. And somehow, in a way, it got into my subconsciousness."

When Auggie Cordero bagged the top prize in the Ramon Valera competition in 1976, Cordero said his winning collection referenced Saint Laurent's "Rambepeasant outfit, the peasant blouse with double-layer bunnies skirt, the quilted bolero."

"Fashion is a dream," Cordero says, " and he made women aspire to have a Saint Laurent."

At a time when the American designer Halston was espousing minimalism, Saint Laurent was at the opposite end of the spectrum, introducing runway dressing inspired by the Ballet Russes. "He added volume and ornate decoration, and he used luxurious materials like ermine and feathers. In other words, he changed the scenery," says Cordero.

As a young man in the 1970s who was starting to get interested in fashion, the designer John Civano says he was so taken by the Algerian-born designer's Ballet Russes collection.

"Lahang lalo ako sa mga damit niya!" he says emphatically. "He was one of my icons. He had restraint in his design, always simplicity. Classic to gamot din yung stilo. He could be theatrical, but in a way that was glamorous, very special and dramatic."

"Saint Laurent did many things

AUGGIE Cordero

AUGGIE Cordero

LORETTO'S reinterpretation of YSL's 1966 high-waist evening dress (left) and the classic "le smoking" (above)

no jog dresses na sa Europa," Soto notes, "the sa. And I think it had something to do with his high level of sophistication. He was very cerebral."

Art and fashion

Saint Laurent was also "first of many to recognize the importance of merging art and fashion," Cordero says, citing Saint Laurent's collections that were inspired by the works of great visual artists, like Mondrian, Matisse, Picasso, Van Gogh's, Miró.

One Iconic designer who was deeply influenced by those collections, according to Cordero, was Loretto, who created his own versions of clothes with Van Gogh's images.

"I loved his beadings and couture details, his silhouettes and the timelessness of his clothes," Loretto says. In the mid-1980s, he hand-painted dresses with Van Gogh's "Sunflowers" à la Saint Laurent. "In this day, I would refer to his works."

Soto, whose personal and professional life bears some semblance to the late great designer, says: "What was good with Saint Laurent was that he had Pierre Bergé (the designer's business partner and one-time lover), who made sure that he was everything that he should be. [Their partnership] evolved fashion into a brand, the first logo's stars, real, honest-to-goodness, high-fashion brand."

In his lifetime, Saint Laurent never made it to the cover of Time magazine, an honor that's been accorded to many other, if less influential, designers of his generation. "He was bypassed many times," says Cordero, who considers it a travesty. "He was shy about self-promotion, like Balenciaga, who was the most elusive. Saint Laurent was introspective; he had a temper… The likes of Courreges, Pierre Cardin, Ungaro, they were all doing pop art, and label ako na maglove si Saint Laurent. His influence had filtered down even to us."

JOJI Lloren

Yves Saint Laurent left his mark on Filipino designers

From page C1

all did extraordinary things. But they worked within a particular style. Yves Saint Laurent is much more versatile, like a combination of all of them."

What exactly were the firms—and substances—of fashion Philippine designers and women in general owed to Saint Laurent?

To start with, the trouser suit of the '70s was an innovation by Saint Laurent at a time when a woman's ensemble of feminine fur trousers to be in pants for serious day and evening occasions.

The trapeze dress is another. In his first collection after the death of Dior, the young YSL introduced a cute-cute, attitude-filled silhouette devoid of puddings and livings associated with the older Dior.

In the '60s, he caught the wave of pop art and Op art, and designed the Mondrian shift which bore the geometric figures of the artist Mondrian. The dress was loaded by curves… it allowed room for the woman's curves while appearing as flat as a painting's surface.

In the mid-'70s, Saint Laurent introduced his "Ballet Russes" collection. He was inspired by Diaghilev's "Ballet Russes"—billowing skirts, dramatic hemlines, gems in jewel colors. He introduced fantasy dressing of Saint Laurent.

Tuxedo dressing sprang from Saint Laurent's "smoking" jacket of 1967, consisting of shirt, bowtied out of the breast pocket, trousers cut. Saint Laurent created multilayered wrap-around culotte easy for women. He paved the way for Armani in that sense.

He also introduced the safari jackets for men and women…and the designer denim.

From the '70s to the early 21st century, there looks made their way to Philippine fashions. As Women's Wear Daily reportedly wrote: Saint Laurent was the "prime of color, the artistry of cut."

Bergé's legendary journalist John Fairchild, the founder of WWD, said "Dior, Chanel, Saint Laurent"—that about summed up high fashion.

Thanks to his partnership with Bergé, who was known for his business acumen, Saint Laurent pioneered not only RTW, but also the licensing of the fragrance and beauty business.

Chanel saw life as an adventure. Dior had a zest for life. YSL had the angst of life. "Till…gradually shy and reclusive—seemed to have embraced the struggle that came with his genius.

In an interview this week on CNN, Bergé said YSL seemed to have lost his drive after he retired in 2001. Even if he did, it actually didn't matter anymore. Yves Saint Laurent had already given enough to the world.

New fashion emporium

THE COUNTRY'S TOP FOUR designers and upcoming fashion labels recently got together in a fashion show to launch Market Palazzo at The Podium's Lounge in Ortigas Center.

Showcased by Bubbles Carrasco with the assistance of 3M designer Daniele Noceda, the show showcased the latest collections of the Market Manila group.

Robert by Patty Quiñonez infuses rich natural fabrics with sophisticated and intricately detailed masterpieces. The group of Stella—Louie Chiparoli, Mitzi Quiñonez and Inic de los Santos—wowed the audience with their stylish tops and evening dresses.

Jessie Mendoza of V showcased her classic line, while Gail Angeles of Wisdom displayed girly and flowery pieces.

The minimalist clothes and footwear of Hazel Santos, Nicole Arnaiz and Kathy Carillo of Conical were standouts, as were Olympic Line's edgy and imaginative fashion-forward.

Navarro's stylish and corporate collections were a hit with the men, while Rugged Done showed trendy and casual clothes for men and women. Rufer Philippines, on the other hand, broke gender conventions in women's wear.

Hospital Lingerie showed playful women's bedside pieces, while Laura dazzled with its jewelry in precious and semi-precious stones, as well as its beaded handbags and purses.

After the fashion show, the guests were ushered to The Podium's fourth level for cocktails so they could check out the boutiques for themselves.

CLASSY and elegant silver dress from Bench

BLACK beaded crochet handbag with black and gold accessories from Laura

STRAPPY slipper made of recycled Tetra Pak

ACCESSORIES made from colored magazine paper

From trash to fashion items

IT'S A GROWING HABIT FOR many to gather all their paper, plastic and electronic waste every first Saturday of the month and bring these to the nearest SM Supermall for the Recycling Market Day.

By cleaning their closets and de-cluttering their homes, they can literally turn trash into cash.

A joint project of the SM Supermalls in cooperation with the National Solid Waste Management Committee, Philippine Business for the Environment Center Deaq, KF-WD-QC and various local government units, the Recycling Market Day is part of SM's commitment to help preserve the environment.

Environmentally conscious shoppers will be happy to know the discarded materials are at the next Recycling Market Day on June 7, Sm's thin and colored magazine sheets will be offered as fashion items like bags and necklaces by Kalsadahan Inc and Layunin Tumindig ng Isang Inyayasan (Lito) Foundation, a multipurpose environmental cooperatives.

In 1997, Barangay Chair Andy Santiago of the Ugong Barangay Council in Pasig organized a group of housewives called Samahan ng Kababaihan ng Ugong for the barangay's clean and green projects.

The group, which later became a 300-strong work force of mostly, was later formally registered as KAsa.

It provides livelihood for 200 families through the production of assorted bags and other reusable products from disposed Tetra Paks of different brands.

TETRAPAK handbag with wooden handle

Their production capacity is 40,000 pieces of bags per month. These are very popular with foreigners, and are exported to the United States, Denmark, Sweden, Japan, Korea and France.

The Recycling Market Day on June 7, will be from 4 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Open Parking Area of all SM Supermalls.

John Robert Powers showcases talents

JOHN ROBERT POWERS (JRP) will hold "Critics of Power" on June 7, at the Carlos P. Romulo auditorium at RCBC Plaza along Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati.

Before talent managers, JRP students will showcase their talents in hosting, runway, fashion print, TV commercial modelling, acting, singing and dancing.

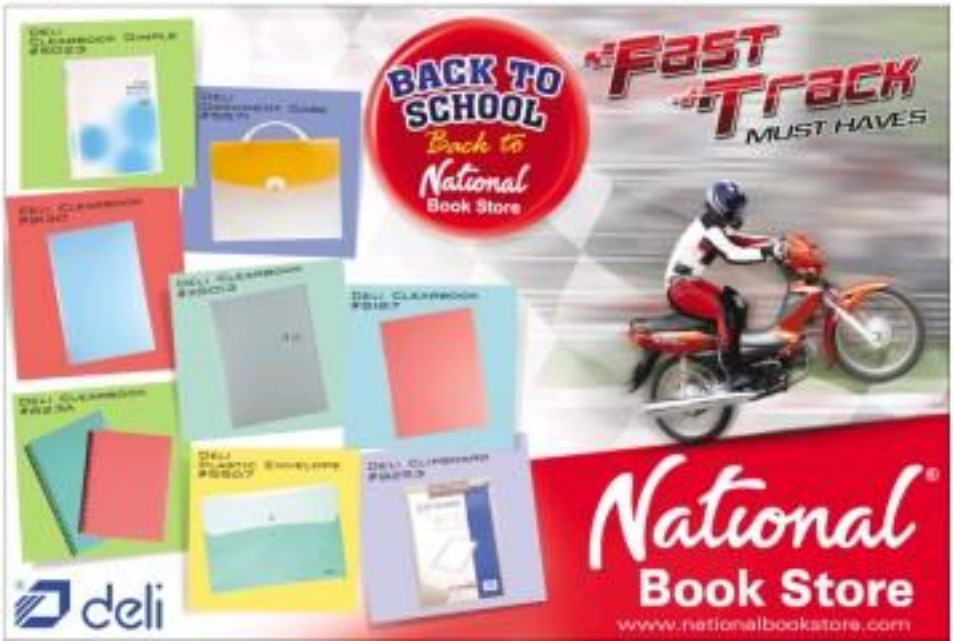
Some of today's popular models, singers like Sarah Geronimo and Kayla and beauty queens are products of John Robert Powers.

JRP alumni also include May Mascariñas, first runner-up in Binibining World's Miss Bikini Bod. in 2007, Ingrid Hicris, DJ of Mellow 94.7 FM and TV host of Studio 23, Jennifer Bautiscos, Binibining Pilipinas Universe 2008, Eimee de Jesus, TV commercial model of Sun Cellular and Dutch Milk, and Polaris, an upcoming singer.

This activity is powered after the International Modeling and Talent Association competition held in Hollywood and New York every year where students of John Robert Powers schools in Asia and America participate in and compete to become models, actors, dancers, hosts and singers.

Tickets at P200 will be available at the gate.

Call 892-9311 (Makati) or 927-8465 (Quezon City). Visit www.johnrobertpowers.com.



New president and CEO of Bang & Olufsen

BALLE Peter Nielsen

BALLE Peter Nielsen (BN) been appointed president and CEO of Bang & Olufsen. Nielsen is a mature engineer with a degree in marketing as well as broad international experience in marketing, business and product development and management.

Nielsen will take up his new position as head of the leading provider of high-end AV solutions on Aug. 1. As a trained engineer from the Technical University of Denmark, he has the hands-on technical experience required to oversee the innovative research and development environment which has been one of the hallmarks of Bang & Olufsen over since the world renowned company was founded and incorporated by the two young engineers Peter Bang and Svend Olufsen in 1925.

"The strong Bang & Olufsen brand is based on technology and design innovation," says Nielsen, who sees the appointment as president and CEO as the culmination of a career dedicated to high-tech R&D and top management. Therefore, the position suits him down to the ground, and is in fact something of a dream come true. "Bang & Olufsen is a Danish icon and in every respect a unique company and fascinating brand," adds Nielsen.

After graduating from the Technical University of Denmark, Nielsen completed a BA of Commerce degree in marketing while working as a software developer for 3Data Aalborg from 1993 to 1995.

He then worked as head of R&D at Mach A/S (formerly known as DanNet A/S), before being headhunted by Brüel & Kjær A/S in 1998.

"The six years that I have spent in this position have given me a lot of experience in managing a large international organisation that produces high tech products, and in this respect my current position is not that different from the top job at Bang & Olufsen," explains Nielsen.

At Brüel & Kjær, a world leading manufacturer and supplier of sound and vibration solutions, the 44-year-old Business leader resided as head of business development before being promoted to deputy chief executive responsible for research and development as well as a large marketing department with more than 20 subsidiaries worldwide. As CEO and president of Brüel & Kjær, he has managed an organisation of more 900 employees, including 100 developing engineers, since 2002.

At Nielsen, it is essential for an innovative company to remain focused. At Brüel & Kjær, he has championed the focus of the company by identifying the products that would improve the business, and by developing and implementing an ambitious but realistic business plan, at the same time. Nielsen has made sure that the focus is always another successor. "Technological and innovative companies sometimes focus too much on what the company is currently capable of producing, at Brüel & Kjær, we created clear ideas for focusing 100 percent on the customer and the customer's needs."

Nielsen is looking forward to being at the helm of the world's leading AV brand. "I am really looking forward to bringing Bang & Olufsen forward in collaboration with creative and professional colleagues both in Denmark and abroad," says Nielsen, who is confident about the many strengths of the company.

"The potential of Bang & Olufsen is absolutely unique, and I am look forward to having the opportunity to realise this potential."

In the Philippines, Bang & Olufsen is exclusively distributed by Steen Specialties, Inc. (SSI) and is available at Greenhills S, Ayala Centers, Makati.

Ancient, spectacular Petra

Undoubtedly the most famous attraction in Jordan is the Nabatean city of Petra, nestled in the mountains south of the Dead Sea.

Petra, which means "stone" in Greek, is perhaps the most spectacular ancient city remaining in the whole world, and certainly a must see for visitors to Jordan and the Middle East.

It's only fitting for Citibank and Citibank Savings to highlight this attraction in its "Wonders of Time" campaign, along with other man-made wonders such as Christ the Redeemer in Brazil, the Colosseum in Italy, India's Taj Mahal, Chichen Itza in Mexico, Machu Picchu in Peru, Pyramids of Giza and China's Great Wall, to name a few.

Free trips

The current of Citibank and Citibank Savings' grand clients who open a Time Deposit Plan are not the chance to win a trip to one of the wonders of the world. The next part is, winners can choose where they want to go.

Time Deposit Plan is a high-yielding time deposit product that offers one of the best interest rates in the market today, if not the highest. Clients of Citibank and Citibank Savings can enjoy this product for an opening balance of P2 million.

To join Citibank's contest, simply open a Time Deposit Plan account with Citibank and Citibank Savings. Clients may also open either a checking, savings or time deposit account to qualify.

By opening an account worth P2 million or its foreign currency equivalent, new clients will earn four raffle coupons. Every P500,000 additional deposit or investment will entitle them to another raffle coupon.

Existing depositors are also eligible to join just by bringing in fresh funds. Every P500,000 in new deposits or investments will earn them a raffle coupon.

Bonanza will be drawn—to be held in Citibank and Bristol-type Citibank Savings. Up for grabs are a round-trip tickets and accommodations plus two people for four days and three nights in Barcelona's destination of choice.

Two winners from Metro Manila and Luzon, from Citibank and Citibank Savings.

"The campaign was inspired by the sophisticated lifestyles of our clients," said Agnes Davies, Citibank Philippines' retail banking director. "We want to offer something that they will truly enjoy. And what could be better than travelling to the world's choicest destinations? The campaign is also interactive, as it gives winners the freedom to choose where they want to go."

Rose-red city

Petra was the capital of the Nabateans—ancient Arabs who dominated the area from 312 BC to AD 106. It is located in the Wadi Musa.

In order to find the site without crossing local boundaries, Burckhardt disguised himself as a pilgrim seeking to make a sacrifice at the tomb of Aaron, a sinister-sounding mission to give him a glimpse of the legendary city. He managed to bluff his way through successfully, and the secret of Petra was revealed to the modern Western world.

Much of Petra's fascination comes from its setting on the edge of Wadi Arabia. The rugged sandstone hills form a deep canyon easily protected from all directions. The easiest access to Petra is through the Siq, a winding rent in the rock that varies from between five to 200 meters wide.

Petra is a refined state of preservation as the arid climate in the fact that almost all of the hundreds of "buildings" have been hewn out of solid rock. There are only a few free-standing buildings in the city. Until 1984, many of these caves were home to the local Bedouins. Out of concern for the monuments, however, the government outlawed this and relocated the Bedouins to housing near the adjacent town of Wadi Musa.

Petra is located just outside the town of Wadi Musa in southern Jordan. It is 240 kilometers from Amman via the Desert Highway and 280 kilometers via the King's Highway. There are numerous and varied accommodations available in Wadi Musa, as well as a few hotels on the panoramic drive between Wadi Musa and the nearby (15 kilometer) village of Elphel. Camping is only illegal inside Petra.

Petra declined rapidly under Roman rule, in large part due to the revision of sea-based trade routes. An earthquake also destroyed many buildings and crippled the vital water management system. With the revision weakened, many of the tombs also became vulnerable to thieves, and many treasures were stolen.

Petra today

In 2000, a team of architects began designing a Visitor Centre, and Jordan's tourist revenue is expected to increase dramatically with the attraction of visitors on package holidays.

On July 7, 2007, Petra was named one of New Open World Corporation's New Seven Wonders of the World.

The picturesque site was featured in the movies "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade," "Passion in the Desert," "Married Another Jumbleblow," "Embed and the Eye of the Tiger," and the Sisters of Mercy music video "Dominion."

It was recorded for the video game Tomb Raider, and has appeared in the novels "Left Behind", "Appointment with Death", "The Eagle in the Sand" and "The Red Tree Snake" in The Adventures of Tintin.

> It's a wonderland of temples, tombs and elaborate buildings out of solid rock

LIFESTYLE

SUNGLASSES

Wear style, see style

Finally, Louis Vuitton sunglasses are now available in Manila

By Cleche K Moral

THOSE SUNGLASSES with Illusion Louis Vuitton logo all over the lenses made popular by hip-hop superstar Kanye West can now be had by Filipino fans of the brand as Louis Vuitton makes its eyewear collection available in the Philippines for the first time.

The Marc Jacobs-designed hand-crafted eyewear has LV plastered all over it as it employs distinct design elements used in its iconic trunks and leathergoods—the 3-fold, Monogram Flower and Coin de Malle hinges, for instance. The popular Monogram and Damier patterns are also used in the acetate frames.

Retailing from P25,000 to P35,000, a customer is assured of getting all those LV worth as the lenses are given the stamp of approval by Carl Zeiss, the German optical lens specialist whose name is most popularly associated with camera lenses.

LV's patented Lentespur Vision guarantees 100-percent protection from UV rays. All lenses go through the so-called polarization treatment that improves visual comfort: the sun glare from wet and flat surfaces is reduced and color contrast is increased.

The Spring/Summer 2008 collection has 10 styles for men and women, including the Elliptical and Conspiration Pilote range that employ the Monogram logo on the lenses. To the makers, so, the logos don't block your vision when you wear the sunglasses.

The new addition to the LV merchandise for the local market is testament to the French luxury maison's confidence in the Philippines that, according to brand director Blanca de Vera Aguirre, they're in a constant search for a new store location in the northern part of the metropolis.

At the recent launch, they also introduced the brand's 2008 City Guide, which now includes five new European cities: Bilbao, Luxembourg, Nicosia, Reykjavik and Turin.

Rustan's SUPERMARKET

Deli Delights

Liven up your cocktail parties and picnics with our new slew of deli items from all over the world. Hard-to-find, high quality deli treats guaranteed to suit your palate.

1 Frankfurter	P 260 / 100g	7 Arkansas Bacon	P 380 / 100g
2 Veal Bratwurst	P 350 / 100g	8 Salami Milano	P 1,040 / 100g
3 Schublig	P 350 / 100g	9 Hungarian Salami Prima	P 1,040 / 100g
4 Hungarian	P 380 / 100g	10 Ham Lyonet	P 420 / 100g
5 Cervelat	P 350 / 100g	11 Italian Prosciutto	P 1,200 / 100g
6 Parma Ham	P 1,250 / 100g	Prices are subject to change without prior notice.	

It's Gourmet Everyday

Rustan's Fresh

Where shopping for food is a pleasure

Makati | Shangri-La Plaza | Rockwell | San Antonio | Greenbelt | Magallanes | Katipunan

Oakley Rhetoral. Tennis-style glare

Oakley Breathless. Go from corner bar drinking to disco dancing

For women's eyes only

Miami is the sunny setting for the launch of the new Oakley Women's collection

THINK OF MIAMI and images of a vibrant, sun-soaked city immediately come to mind. It's a postcard-pretty summer scenario: sparkling beaches, swaying palm trees, bronzed bikini-clad girls ... revelling about, hard-bodied men whizzing by on rollerblades, and a sensual vibe that radiates clear endless summer appeal. In places like this sensory tropical dream is only one thing to flaunt other than a positively forward fashion—your finest sunglasses.

Jessi J. Epperson

The world-famous Florida city was the perfect setting to launch one of the world's most trend-savvy in sunglasses and apparel, Oakley, which brought together fashionistas and sellebrities on the shores of Miami Beach for three days to see its latest collection.

Oakley has come a long way from being a figment of the imagination of "mad scientist" Jim Jannard, who started the company with $300 and a simple idea of making products that work better and look better than anything in the market. "Everything in the world can and will be made better," Jim told skeptics when he first set out.

For Jannard, the most challenging the limits of conventional thinking in his garage lab. Jim is an engineer by profession and sports fiend. Many people thought that it was crazy to challenge the industry's big companies back then. But with his revolutionary vision, Jim used innovations from his previous inventions to create "Eyeshades," a design that sparked a revolution and transformed eyewear from generic accessory to vital fashion equipment.

Eyeshades became the iconic accessory used by world-renowned pro athletes such as Greg LeMond, Scott Tinley, Mark Allen and Lance Armstrong. And so for the longest time, Oakley was exclusively associated only on all-boys clubs ... until now.

The cross-colebrity of the affair in Miami Beach was Oakley's new collection specifically designed for women.

Women athletes modelled the latest Oakley eyewear. The collections is especially designed for women—with narrower temples, a smaller nose bridge and more feminine designs.

Grit and glamour

The launch party would have made even the limps of "Entourage" jealous. I was in the midst of the whole steamy scene, which brought together the glitziness of sports and the glitziness of glamour.

The three-day event included fashion shows and activities, including golf with pro golfer Garrett, and water sports and swimming off a private island.

Guests were chilled on white couches by the poolside terrace.

The affair also featured the Rolling O Lab, which was a 42-foot bus that road-tested dozens of Oakley eyewear.

At the Ritz Carlton ballroom, a fashion show kicked off Oakley's first women's sports performance eyewear, Radars.

The "action sports" of sports were there. Champion hurdler Lolo Jones presented designs for the show. Models flaunted swimwear from the new collection of uber-flexy professional snowboarder Gretchen Bleiler.

Gorgeous female athletes took to the stage such as Kareem Black, Lolo Jones, Angie Nelson, and Nikki Gaines, to present the new Gascoyne Women line of sunglasses. They were joined by Lolo Jones and Gretchen Bleiler.

As for me, I had more than enough eye candy amidst the Miami sunshine, perfectly shaded in my flattering Oakley sunnies of course, enjoying the three-day affair of fun and fashion.

E-mail the author at jessi.epperson@inquirer.com.ph

Photography Tom Epperson
Styling Jessi Epperson
Model Grenaid Alvarado, Philippines' Next Top Model Winner
Hair and makeup Benjie Angeles for Shu Uemura and Kiehl's Hydra Series
Sunglasses from Oakley

Oakley Betray. Bedroom hair to Barbie beauty

Oakley Seizing. Global superstar-worthy shades

Checklist for selecting the right eyewear

- Frame fit. Try eyewear on to ensure personal comfort.
- Lens curve. Curves can enhance impact and UV protection, avoid optical distortion.
- UV Protection. Should guard against UVA and UVB rays
- Lens coating. Options include anti-glare, contrast-boosting, and scratch-resistive coatings
- Impact protection. Check for higher impact ratings, and polycarbonate or nylon materials

Oakley Revitalizing. Surf's up, style up!

model citizens model citizens model citizens model citizens model citizens model citizens model citizens

So many men, so many bags

STYLISH GUYS ARE POpping out of their shells these days and toting around chic man fashionable accessory: The man bag.

And where is anyone to frame types of bags, there's just no room for the typical. Being bold in what is taboo to stand out and be stylesworthy. Take one from these stylish sirs and learn how to handle big things. JE

Photos by Jessi Epperson using Sony Cybershot DSC-T1

MICHAEL Quezon, Jessica 19, brown man bag

JUN Dizon, makeup artist Louis Vuitton Keepall

LUC OLIVIER Thorsen, Ethical jewellers and managing director Brazilian briefcase

KEVIN Jung, Singapore stopover Converse duffel bag

SCOTT Mahoney, NYC director Robert Pirosi + Louis Vuitton

STEVEN Dimzon, makeup artist Cynthia Lee messenger

Designing factor: SHOW a bit of skin and make those legs look longer with a short hemline and high heels. Monochromatic tones also help create an unbroken line from head to toe.

Photography: Dan Matias Pesio
Styling: Sidney Tee
Making your Quintos for Rio Olympics and Hair Sea Mica for Kent's Cosmos Grooming Perkins

Shirt (P1,499) by Carmela Sandoval, skirt (P1,299) by Carmela Sandoval, shoes (P1,499) by Carmela Sandoval, bracelet and pendant (stock), all by Carmela Perkins

Designing factor: HIGH WAIST bottoms make your legs look longer. Leave your bottom-down undercovered as the top to show your neck!

Trend factor: UPDATE your basic tank tops and jeans by layering and adding sparkle.

Jin Antonio Cole cotton chiffon top, (P1,499) high waist skirt and clutch handbag, all by Carmela Perkins. Jin Camille black sequin tank top, layered over a cotton chiffon blouse, (P1,499) and white flared jeans, all by Carmela Perkins

Designing tips: SHEER details and lace are back! Wear your skirts or dresses with stockings for added style.

BLACK top with sheer details and flared skirt and hot lace print cut. Both made-to-measure. Look for Carmela Perkins

Trend factor: YOU can wear almost anything if you have an average-sized body type like Camille. Ruffle necklines and ruffle details that are feminine, romantic and ideal for summer. Plus, highlights your figure with trendy make belts.

GRAY dress with ruffled hem and neckline details and gold-tone belt and geometric clutch, all by Carmela Perkins

How to dress up according to your shape

Play up your best attributes, disguise your flaws

ALTHOUGH SOME would have us believe that skinny supermodel-like body types are ideal, the truth of the matter is that all female shapes have their own unique attributes. It's time to embrace and celebrate our bodies—curves, flaws, curves (or lack thereof) and all.

Armed with practical style tips that focus on how best to flatter your body type through choice of clothing, you can easily play up your best features while disguising flaws.

It's always handy to keep these general rules of flattery in mind:

Proportion is key. A mix of volume and unvolumized silhouettes help create the illusion of curves or disguise certain body parts. If you are pear-shaped, for instance, a slimming A-line skirt that skims but not hugs the hips will look good with a poofy wrap top that draws attention to a shapely waist.

Tailor your clothes. The right fit helps create the right proportions. But everything you buy in stores will fit to a T. Find a reliable tailor who can help alter your clothes to suit your body type perfectly.

Dark colors are **slimming**. Colors like black, navy and brown help minimize. Bold, lighter colors that are shiny add girth. If you are blessed with a well-endowed chest, avoid clothing made of reflective materials. If you have a thick waist, do away with the trendy white belt and go for a dark-colored one instead.

Vertical lines are slimming and elongating while horizontal lines make you look wider. If you are on the petite or curvy side, avoid horizontal stripes at all costs. They can you in half and make you look shorter and squatter. Vertical stripes, on the other hand, make you look taller and leaner.

Elongate with the use of monochromatic colors. If you are petite, avoid blocks of color in the torso or tone that can create a lean, straight line. You should also avoid cropped pants. To lengthen your legs, wear pants with a long and straight cut that will cover your shoes.

Accentuate your hourglass **figure by wearing belts** or **slimming** tops and bottoms with defined waists. Wrap tops and dresses are ideal while belts and sashes help whittle your waistline.

Respect your body. Nobody is perfect so learn to love and accept your body. Show off those assets and focus on the positive. If you have well-toned legs, go short and flaunt that skin. If you're blessed with broad shoulders and a graceful neck or neath, try asymmetric necklines that draw attention to them. And most important, do have a bit of fashion fun while you're at it.

To show you how to dress according to your body type while keeping abreast of the latest trends, petite Amanda, tomboy actor and mid-sized Camille and curvy Honey, all real women with style and substance, don Boundry Busters' latest creations.

E-mail the author at ajbadua@inquirer.com.ph

Apples Akiera-Sadhwani

Associate Degree in Fashion Design and Fashion Marketing
Diploma in Fashion Design
Diploma in Fashion Marketing
Certificate Programs
Short Courses
Workshops
JUNE 2008 ENROLLMENT ONGOING
school fashion arts

PSBank Money Card
627502 388 011124 8 001
CHERRY Z. LOPEZ
Tuition fees?
PSBank Money Card ang tutulong sa 'yo.
• Credit decision as fast as 24 hours
• Interest as low as 1.6%
• Collateral-free
• Flexible terms
The Personal Loan in an ATM Card. Apply now at any PSBank branch.
PSBank
You may also apply via www.psbank.com.ph
Call 885-8208 locals 8517, 8518, 8250 & 8185
Email us at info@psbank.com.ph
PSBank Money Card
BancNet Member PDIC. Maximum deposit insurance for each depositor P250,000.

Hollywood's favorite bag

KATE Hudson jumps up and down on the set of "Bride Wars" with a T bag

KATHERINE Heigl carries a Baby Bag in cream/card (inset). Patrick Dempsey (above) exits JFK airport with his Nylon Bag

SOFTY Messenger Bag in brown/dark

FROM LOS ANGELES TO New York, London to Milan to Madrid, Tod's has now become a staple in every celeb's closet, a brand synonymous with luxe-key chic and elegance.

With its fine quality and superior construction, even non-celebs love toting their Tod's around, especially when traveling.

Tod's has been making stylish creations for over 50 years. It is no wonder why its bags can be seen in the arm of almost every Hollywood icon.

Whether it be for a grocery trip, traveling from one country to another, or a stylish red-carpet event, every celebrity wardrobe stands the touch of class a Tod's bag or shoe can bring to an outfit.

Katherine Heigl **sometimes her Tod's Softy** bag in cream blend with her Tod's Dee ballerinas while out and about in Los Angeles.

While shooting her new film "Bride Wars," Kate Hudson loves carrying her belongings in a Tod's T bag in black patent.

Royal offspring Charlotte Casiraghi stayed up her all-black ensemble with a Tod's Kate to natural leather while at an expo in the Serpent Gallery in London.

"Gossip Girl" star Blake Lively also shops around New York with her Tod's Softy Messenger Grande in brown linen.

"Grey's Anatomy" hunk Patrick Dempsey was recently seen with his Tod's Nylon Travel Bag in navy blue at LAX.

In the Philippines, Tod's shoes, bags and accessories are exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. and are **available at the boutique in** Greenbelt 4, Makati.

ACTRESS Blake Lively admires her dog Penny leaves via-ear of "Gossip Girl."

'Anti-aging' deodorant

NOW, A DEO THAT FIGHTS age!

Did you know that your underarms are also prone to "aging?"

Regular underarm care rituals like plucking, shaving or even waxing can lead to wrinkly, dull and sagging skin.

Nivea introduces another first in underarm skincare with the new Nivea Deo Total Age Repair Q10, the first anti-age deodorant for women that reduces wrinkles while making underarm skin firmer and whiter.

Nivea Deo Total Age Repair Q10 replenishes skin's lost Q10 needed by our cells for skin regeneration. This unique formula boosts the skin's energy production via painDefense, thereby reducing Q10 level to reduce fine lines and rough or bumpy skin texture on underarms.

Nivea Deo Total Age Repair Q10 also stimulates the production of hyaluronic acid to **firm the underarm skin. The in**creases the tissue conditions and increases their water-binding capacities in between skin layers in order to smoothen **wrinkles from the inside.**

The formula also contains lecetrol to help whiten underarm skin and prevent it from looking dull.

bench/

Exclusive offer to Lifestyle card members only

Special treat on this *Independence Day* weekend, valid form June 7 to 9, 2008

Get P50 off for a minimum purchase of P400 worth of regular-priced item, from the following stores:

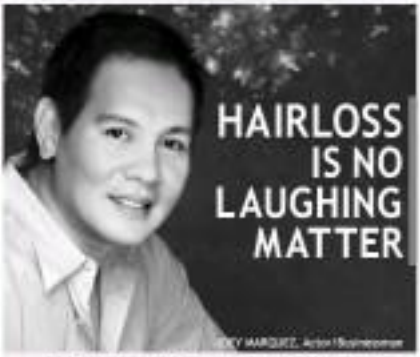
bench/ herbench/

surfbench

human

See poster or visit our store personnel for promo details.

HAIRLOSS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER



REY MARQUEZ, Actor/Businessman

"I've been a comedian for a long time. I'm used to being the butt of jokes. But I can still be touchy about my appearance. When I started experiencing hairloss, people made jokes about it. I was even called *Monsignor* because my bald spot was increasing to the size of a *Monsignor's* cap! I tried to not let it bother me but the truth was it did. Sigempre with less hair you look older. And I'd rather be seen as classic, not old. I tried special shampoos and tropical injections as Stalex but with no success. Then I went to Svenson. After three weeks I saw a big difference. Now, when people ask me, "Is it a wig? A transplant?" I say, 'No, it's my real natural hair! It's Svenson.'"

CALL 892-HAIR (4247)

Svenson

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

LIFESTYLE

Contributing Editor
Rio Frescinos Presto

Achieve paths of enlightenment amidst hustle and bustle

Walk the paths of enlightenment with blissful Zen gardens at The Grand Midori Suites. A new residential haven rising in the heart of the country's premiere business and lifestyle district.

The area is designed to let you live your mind and soul from everyday worries. Breathe in, relax, and achieve inner peace.

The Grand Midori
MAKATI

FEDERALAND-ORIX
CORPORATION

Beauty tips for the bride

Never tell the makeup artist 'Bahala ka na'

BEAUTY

MAYBELLINE
Great Lashmascara
www.maybelline.com

OVER A DELIGHTFUL MEAL highlighted by a scrumptious slice of strawberry shortcake at Manhattan's Cafe Luke (Famous for its role in the movie "You've Got Mail"), Maybelline color artist Harold Tiongco and I sit down to talk about brides and beauty.

Tiongco, who was in town attending various makeup seminars to further hone his skills, shared the following tips.

Think breathable skin. "The makeup artist you choose should be fluent and forecast conscious about your skin," said Tiongco. A pre should be able to assess a bride's skin type and tone accurately, and then apply the appropriate foundation.

Harold Chua,
Bride to Be Big Bird.

Knowing whether the client has oily or acidic complexion plays a big role in determining what kind of makeup goes on her face."

Make your makeup last. The longevity of makeup is a big concern to the bridal beauty circuit, as there is a fine line between looking picture perfect and still looking like yourself in front of guests (and more importantly, the groom).

"Layering and proper blending is key to having makeup look natural and lasting at least long enough," said Tiongco. "Pat technique rendering that wonderful and lavish cosmetic lights. "Ideas is where you should ask for recommended measures," he advised.

Get along with your makeup artist. Having good support between a client and a beauty stylist is crucial in achieving the best, wedding-worthy results. It is also found on mutual respect.

As the client, it is considered in bad taste to hold a mirror out while the makeup artist is at work.

The beauty pro, meanwhile, should pay attention to little details such as having clean, smelling hands and being gentle.

"Touching one's face is very personal, so you have to respect that," said Tiongco.

Tell him or her what you want. "Never say 'Bahala ka na' 'Pls all up to you.'," continued Tiongco. Articulating your makeup preferences ensures you don't end up being unrecognizable on your wedding day.

"That's what trial sessions are for: Bring tear sheets from magazines and explore the looks you like."

Hazel Chua is the former beauty editor of Cosmopolitan, Seventeen and UK's Magazine. She is now based in New York City. Visit StyleMeetsNew.com.

PICTURE-PERFECT moments

It's your chance to get your groceries FREE every 30 minutes.

A maximum of P10,000.00 worth of groceries to be won per winner.

Major Sponsors:

SHOPWISE
The good life you can afford

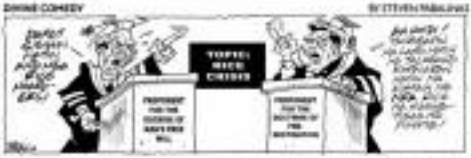
SHIRLEY'S PETS — BY ROBERT MACNAUGHTON

A. LIPIN — BY JESS ABRERA

FULDOK — BY RAFU AND TATUYPALAMBUNG

PUSAO BABOY — BY PH. JUNIOR

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PABALINAS



GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

GLAIPHIN — BY DARWIN PEREZ

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY — BY LYRA GARCELLANO

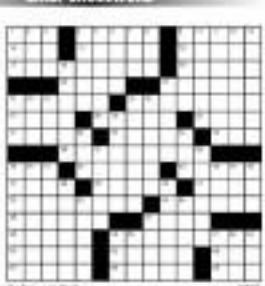
LOVEBUGGOTS — BY ELIZABETH HICHENGLO

KIKO MACHINE — BY MARK ABRERA

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

By Robert H. Wolfe
North Wheatbrook, NY



Manitoba's Prairie Sunset

ACROSS
1 Hooked
6 Picnic
9 Pre-teen
gymnastics
14 Sugar grading
15 Halibuts
16 Dimly (through)
17 Anchor's cry
18 Seems
19 Ms. Linda
21 Heavy shelter
22 Singer Kathy
23 Swimsuit rating
27 Groups of trees
28 Name of painter
Nicolas Poussin
31 Preferred
33 Mrs. Norman
Rockwell's
35 Rabbit's cry
36 Animal that's a
model?
39 Fender damage
42 Singer Simon
43 Mens
accommodation
47 Take bag
restaurant
49 Flying of "The
Flying Dutchman"
52 Unsalted
amount
53 Modern slang
55 Spoofers
57 Western play
pen
58 Approach
quickly
59 Cowboy
acronym
60 Cream VIP
61 Years of office
62 Diner's no
63 Tangle up
64 Hobby
65 Sympathetic
66 Cards

DOWN
1 Present tense
2 Lack of a sign
3 Arena sweeper
4 Pile
5 Get to the
correct point
6 Ink liquid
7 Hole-like or
cavelike
8 Squiggly line

9 Mixed, often
10 Acquiesce
11 Historical
happening
12 Lunches
13 Low-cost
plan
21 Remove
24 Bathroom device
25 Kingdom Title
of
26 Museum
offering
29 Short snap
30 Dance series
31 Dance series
(Ballroom)
32 Sing to
34 Regarded with
glee
37 Sword carrier
38 Auxiliary motor
39 Wonderful
creature
40 Summer on the
Aisne
41 Really cool!
44 Irish dog
45 Mendelssohn
oratorio
46 Actress
Richardson
48 Words of fine
taste
50 Applied
51 Some NFL
linemen
54 Enraged
56 Hot spring
57 Bird valley's
nickname
61 Bowler's
concern

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YESTERDAY TODAY: Because you have shown interest in more different directions, you will be labeled "...you're sometimes overwhelmed with choices. You have a natural understanding of human nature, and you're very good with people, so you're sometimes confused. In your own interests, you become quite analytical. Work hard to build on something you're good at. You are Virgo's 6.

Birthdays: Lani Rado, hockey player; Thad Gaswell, actor; Thomas Mann, writer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a lovely day to socialize with friends and enjoy the company of others. Avoid arguments with loved ones, whatever. Most of the time, is open for important discussions, but decisions or signing papers.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're designed to love beauty and beautiful stuff. Well, today, its from within the beautiful you. Your inner beauty is what shines through. Those who interact with you feel wonderful.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is an excellent day to spend time with your best friends, planning and discussing your future. Whatever you're thinking about, it's a good time to discuss it with someone who understands you.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Good time to spend alone time with yourself. Let subconscious and your inner wisdom flow. You need to do something to pamper your body and heart. Just don't over-eat and over-sleep.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Great activities are possible today. Mental stimulation with others. Talk about your future plans, because feedback from others could be helpful to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Communication with others is important today. Friends, family, co-workers and associates will be in a good mood and interested in discussing ideas and plans. Be quite easygoing and outgoing today. People are very inclined to cooperate with you today. Enjoy!!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Unusual opportunities or a change in your usual routine can get very exciting at first. Usual conditions are likely to arise today. Be on the lookout for this!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Calm, placid, and friendly are how others can view you today. Be receptive to others. Don't let thought it's better to listen than to give.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a wonderful day to get close with partners and close friends and solve some problems. Don't be troubled today, be easy-going and take on no penalty conditions!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a pretty energizing day in work. Co-workers, associates are cooperative, and you're willing to help others as well. Get involved with making changes and cross obstacles or move ahead!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a playful day. Enjoy flirtations with others. You feel young and ready for adventure. Enjoy activities with others and social diversions of all sorts. Party on!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Emotion is abound and fun. You are appreciated for your ideas and money, something that makes sense could work out for you.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Concepts Sudoku — By Dave Green

		8	9					
	6		1				4	
		2				6		3
				8			3	5
			5		4			
2	7			9				
4		9				7		
	1				9		8	
					6	5		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	4	7	6	1	3	2	5	9
5	9	2	7	4	8	3	6	1
1	6	3	2	9	5	8	7	4
4	1	5	9	8	2	7	3	6
7	3	8	1	5	4	9	2	8
9	2	6	3	7	6	4	1	5
6	5	4	8	2	7	1	9	3
3	7	9	4	6	1	5	8	2
2	8	1	5	3	9	6	4	7

An end to arms struggle

By Joy Rojas
Cold Blast

BEFORE

AFTER

THE FIRST TIME WOMEN thought about the way their arms looked was when Linda Hamilton bared her buff biceps in "Terminator 2." The last time women thought about the way their arms looked, however, wasn't as pretty a picture: Remember how Oprah Winfrey waved her "batwing"—the loose, wiggling flesh on her upper arms—before millions of televiewers?

These days, a breakthrough treatment at Marie Fenner will have women thinking about their arms not again. Safe, painless, and non-invasive, Slender Arm TriPollar employs radio frequency technology, a technology recognized and utilized in the medical industry for 40 years and counting. Originally used for surgery, specifically as a laser to slice through skin, cuts like frequency, experts discovered a decade ago, was also effective at another chore: "If you burn the subcutaneous and hypodermal areas...those areas under underneath the skin—at the right level, it forms collagen (the substance that keeps our skin elastic) to contract and pull together," says United Beauty Index and marketing VP of Rodagen, the company responsible for the TriPollar technology. "It also stimulates the production of more collagen cells, thereby making the skin firmer and tighter."

While ideal as well for areas where loose skin and stubborn fat (after libido abdomen, inner thighs, neck, or bra line), the compact Slender Arm TriPollar applicator is intended for the arms "because most of the audio frequency cardiac current is concentrated in the arms," says Ariel Torres, medical doctor of Marie Fenner. And admit it—most of toned thighs, a flat stomach, perky breasts, or a pearly derby. Jog daytime, our arms have always been low on our list of body parts to tone up. "Clients are almost always amazed for their abdomen and thighs, but rarely for their arms," says Torres. "The TriPollar machine targets what hasn't been targeted before."

Interestingly, individuals with "batwings" aren't the only candidates for this treatment. Even those with slim arms could get a boost from the machine. "Say you lost weight and went to the gym to work out," explains Torres. "You would have both muscle and fat fat, but your skin is still sagging. You have to develop muscle to have, not muscle, to firm up." Weight and height are also taken into consideration, as well as body fat percentage which is measured with a caliper.

A client up for a Slender Arm TriPollar treatment is asked to change into a robe and lie face down on a flat bed. Treatment begins with the therapist positioning the client's arm, bent at the elbow, hand underneath the head. Glycerin, which acts as a conductor, is applied on the inner arm before the therapist glides the handheld TriPollar apparatus on the skin in a continuous circular motion. The heat, which ranges from 38°C to 40°C, is, as they say, pleasant, though five therapist checks the temperature of the treated area from time to time and inquires about the patient's comfort. As promised, the procedure, which lasts for 45 minutes for both arms, is painless, and a client can go about his or her daily business immediately after. Any "swelling" or redness in the treated area doesn't last more than a few minutes.

Results are visible to the first treatment alone, but for a truly obvious and long-term transformation, a client has to complete the whole once-a-week procedure for 10 weeks. As for back fats, the numbers, says Torres, "can differ for every person. It depends on what you start with." In any case, the results are said to be lasting, especially if the client returns for a maintenance session once every 2-3 months.

Given Slender Arm TriPollar's convenience, safety, and price (per person, it starts at), no surprise that this relatively new procedure is fast overshadowing other conventional and invasive methods as the debilitating treatment of choice. Still, both Torres and Torres concede that their machine "is wonderful as it is, only that as the aging process, not stop or reverse it." And it's no excuse not to live a healthy lifestyle, emphasizes Torres. "Exercise and eating a balanced diet are more important than anything else."

Call Marie Fenner at 894-8007 (2639) for more info on Slender Arms TriPollar

Comfort gift ideas for dad on his special day

MAKEOVER 911

Kitty Salas

PHOTO: Various sites cropping, an old-modern method of alternative medicine

JUNE IS DAD ALWAYS BUSY-ESPECIALLY PAINFUL for dads since it's school opening and tuition is especially shocking in the wallet.

So my special tribute to great dads out there, my article for this month will be dedicated to them—a Father's Month special.

For kids looking for a father's day gift, ask yourself: What is it that bugs dad?

It may be permanently sore muscles, especially at the shoulders, back and calves. The condition is a result of chronic lows being hunched over a desk working on a computer or checking and spreadsheets for the budget-cued business.

Back and shoulder pain may also be due to walking long distances or carrying heavy loads around the house for years. This is a problem most dads I have spoken with wish would go away.

Take dad to a serious massage chair with a pair of kneading arms in his comfort level. Breath to many relief and a good night's sleep as the massage knows intuitively where the balls of tension can be found.

For easy try the salon and spa options of Philosophy. For example, doesn't Shiatsu Chair sound exciting, an old eastern method of alternative medicine wherein heated glasses placed all over the back, calves and thighs warm on the cold air (or lovely, according to the manipulation) that has brushed up deep into the muscle, making it sore and swollen. The masseuse can go this deep into the problem area without the worry.

Downside: there will be bruising or simply soreness.

The treatment costs P1,200 for 60 minutes total, which includes a deep-tissue massage, stretching and cupping.

'Hilot'

You may also bring your dad to a Pinoy hilot (PHOTO), a tried and tested ancient form of Filipino treatment where an authentic manipulator from Negros knows the sore muscles, spasms and aches even as far back as injuries from childhood.

Problems such as bloating, gas and constipation in many cases be corrected as the hands-on work to do the problem areas.

Hilot is very similar to reflexology but there is pain involved as the problem areas get sorted out.

For those on a budget, they may take their dad to the Manila Bay front (Philippine Plaza), a full hour treatment dealing with the feet, arms, scalp and back, done in a fine air-conditioned spa with comfortable leather massage chairs. All treatments are holistic. Call 832-0334.

Dads who have a penchant for head massage (but be all the sore spots may try Yes Salon, which offers Full Body Shiatsu (P700/hour) or Deep Tissue massage by Joel Torrecampo. Yes (632) 631-8968.

Some dads may be suffering from excessive sweating, a condition called Hyperhidrosis which can be very embarrassing as sweaty palms the client's armpit areas and a slippery handshake as a turn-off.

Drop by your drugstore and grab Stridex's Stridex for dad. It is fantastic at keeping him dry and protect for 24 hours.

Big stomach

Big stomach is a man's problem area. If he especially gets comfortable as a father figure.

Liposuction is drastic and expensive so there are leaner treatments that make the skin contract so inch-loss is possible:

1. Shiseido Body Creator Abdomen Toning gel firms up the skin, burns fat and gets rid of gas and bloating. Side effects: panting, gas. Frequent trips to the bathroom and a cold feeling.

2. Rachu frequency machines such as magic bliss found in any Cinthia Bake version. Sessions as "thermolipo" and "shooting stars" can be done over a span of at least one inch on the first problem treatment alone.

Other establishments that offer inch loss via radio frequency are Belo Medical Group's Inner and Medal Care Center's Ultrashape. These machines are high-tech, recommended best for value must undergo at least 10 sessions for full impact.

But expect to lose less inches as the treatments progress as there will be less fat to burn and loose skin is firm up.

Belo Medical group: 864-2039; Endless Skin Center: 9749001; Bloomling, 4341619; and Marie Fenner, 894-8007

A Big Party for the HP Mini

Manila, Philippines, May 30, 2008– The HP Mini-Note PC is now in the Philippines! HP's first fully-functional mini notebook computer was officially introduced to Filipinos at a launch party held at Bonifacio High Street recently. It was a star-studded event attended by no less than high society butterfly Tessa Prieto Valdez, Sports Unlimited host Marc Nelson, Studio 23 VJ Amanda Griffin, entrepreneur Brad Tarvey, Celebrity Chef Vicky Enciso-Arcilla, youth columnist Patricia Evangelista and Manila Representative Mina Pineda.

Being the smallest and lightest notebook PC that is "fully-functional," the HP 2133 Mini-Note PC is designed specifically for mobile youths and business professionals to play, learn and work anywhere – from the classroom, boardroom or cafe.

With a starting weight of just 1.19 kg, the HP Mini-Note PC features an 8.9-inch display and a large usable QWERTY keyboard to maximize productivity for people on the go. The HP 2133 Mini-Note PC also features a choice of 8GB Solid State Drive flash module with Linux as well as standard hard disk drives for a superior computing experience.

With the new HP Mini-Note PC, you can just go places!

Youth columnist Patricia Evangelista

Ed Monsour

Brad Tarvey

Tessa Prieto Valdez

Gadgets Lifestyle Editor Michelle Calleria

Marc Nelson

Amanda Griffin

Models displaying the HP Mini-Note

Studio 23's Jayson Antonio

Chef Tristan Encarnacion

Jayson Santos holding the HP Mini-Note

HP Market Development Manager for Notebooks Ian Reyes

IT columnist Jerry Lim

Family Sunday Brunch

Take a culinary journey as you go buffet hopping from one restaurant to another, to savor the best dishes offered at Basics, Benjarong, Tosca and Uma for only Php1,450 nett per person.

Children availing of the brunch will be treated to an afternoon of fun and games at the Ballroom.

Starting June 8, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

For inquiries, please call 887-3333.

Dusit Thani

The best makeup? Bridal makeup!

IT'S THE MONTH OF weddings! I remember my wedding like it was yesterday—one of the most exciting times of my life, of course.

I didn't particularly enjoy most parts of the wedding like fixing the seating arrangements of the guests and thinking of the budget. But I was most excited on my gown and the entourage's dresses and booking my makeup artist. Now that part was fun!

When it comes to makeup, the bridal look is the best, period. It is the no-makeup-makeup look—simply fresh, luminous skin that has to stay on for at least half a day. It can cost an arm and a leg, but it is all worth it if you put into consideration the pictures you will be looking at 40 years down the road.

The best type of look that's appropriate then day to night, bride to bed. In fact, have you ever seen an ugly bride? If yes—blame the makeup.

It's fresh, luminous skin that has to stay on for at least half a day

Look as fresh as a bride every day. That's a good beauty credo. Watch out for best things.

First is good skin. Cover blemishes and dark circles with a concealer. Brush on loose powder to set. This will also help the makeup stay longer.

Get your lashes and brows groomed and mascara. That will open up your eyes. You don't even have to use eyeshadow, if you wish.

Smile and add some rose-colored blush on the apple of your cheeks. To finish the look, slide on tinted lip gloss.

MAKEUP artist Paddy Arcilla (mobile 09 17 6279128) for real bride Kat Akut

KNOCKOUT! Ria Francisco Prieto

MAKEUP Angeles (0929 6378620) of Sheryl Jacinto and Mich for real bride Jolene Pelo

LEO Penalo (09 05 4311437) for real bride May Nieto

SEBASTIEN Tarell, 24, regional director, Armary-Bobbi Brown

How to achieve perfect foundation

WHAT'S THE SECRET TO applying foundation evenly to get a great finish?

Right now, the look is a creamy, healthy appearance with creamy skin.

To achieve this, you need to use the right amount of hydration prior to applying foundation. To find a hydrating moisturizer, check the ingredients out to make sure the first ingredient is water.

If the first ingredient is butter or oil, the foundation will leave a greasier finish. If your skin is a bit dry, go for a moisture foundation to avoid settling.

It's okay to use an oil-free moisturizer or foundation, but not both as that will leave your skin too dry—if you're naturally dry.

As for powders, use it mainly on the T-zone, which is often a bit more shiny, and elsewhere only as needed. A powder puff is best to use, but don't dip the sponge into your compact. A lighter application lasts longer than a full, heavy application.

Maike Rees, SM Cyberzone

Get that "Sex and the City" look!

"SEX AND THE CITY" JUST hit the big screen, and if you haven't met up with your girl friends to see it—girl, you're way behind schedule!

The creators of this popular series truly know what they were doing when they came up with four different stereotype characters that everyone could relate to.

In this page, we share tricks on how to create the Carrie, Samantha, Charlotte and Miranda looks in our orders.

Isabel Rees, Rich Asia Wax

Carrie

The look: Black smoky eyes and pale lips

I first applied MAC's studio tech cream foundation evenly on the model's skin and dusted it off with Laura Mercier's loose powder. For her eyes, I used a base of light eyeshadow all over her lids and smudged the top of it with Jon Dexter's Eye Shadow in Black. I opted to use a little black from the Keyshas palette. To finish off Carrie's look, I used MAC's lip color in Twig.

Samantha

The look: Smoky, passion, oversexed, cheeky. Fearless glossy lips

I used MAC's Studio Tech cream foundation and dusted her face off with Bobbi Brown's loose powder. Then, her cheekbones contoured, as I used Make Up Forever's Compact Modellers and blush from the Keyshas palette. For the apples of her cheeks, I brushed her face with the eyeshadow from MAC and finished off her eyes with Trish's black eyeliner. Samantha's fiery vibe is evoked with a bright lip color—MAC's Lip color in Lingerie.

Charlotte

The look: Glowing skin, untinted eyeshadow, long lush eyelashes

I started off with MAC's Studio Tech cream foundation and dusted it with Laura Mercier's loose powder. To achieve Charlotte's dainty yet sophisticated look, I used Palette by BSBC on her lids and lined them with Bobbi Brown's Long Gone Gel Liner in Black. I finished off the model's eyes with Paula's blush mascara.

To give the model's that sun-kissed glow, I first applied MAC's cream blush in Peony and then topped it off with Keyshas's peaches blush. We her lips, MAC's Fashionista Red.

WHO among the four are you?

Miranda

Makeup by Gay Cayetano for The Wedding Dresses

The look: "Miranda on a day out with the baby!"

To achieve this look, I primed the model's skin with Smashbox' Hybrid 3-in-1 Luminizing Primer to give her skin that inner glow and then used cream foundation and loose powder to even out her skin tone. The same objectives were to make her skin look healthy and glowing. To further mimic healthy skin, I used nude-pink color on her lips.

To soften her Asian features, I lightened her eyebrows by using a spooly brush and Make Up Forever's eyebrow concealer to even. Silhouette always has defined cheeks—it's easy to contour those cheekbones using Make Up Forever's Compact Modellers and peach blush on the apples of the model's cheeks.

For the eyes, I brushed the lids with a little gold shimmer and then contoured her eyes by brushing a deep brown eyeshadow right beneath her brow bones. To finish the look, I lined the lids with Bobbi Brown's long wear gel liner to define and applied Rouge Pur Mini Rouge Pulpe pencil eyeliner to the top and bottom lashes.

Tweeze your eyebrows with ease

THE EYEBROWS MAY seem like a minor feature of your face, but it can indeed change the way you look. It adds character and definition to the face while helping an expressive eyes. Thin, the majority, subtract or shape.

Back in high school, we weren't allowed to wear makeup, to say brands, and I experimented on the most base thing—my eyebrows. This was back in the '90s. Thin, arched brows were fashionable and were on every supermodel walking the runway.

Let's just say we ended up with ultra-thin, rounded brows that left us perpetually "surprised."

Today, that many look is long gone, except for the photos that serve as a reminder for us to never do that again. My brows are now kept in their natural shape, but maintained by tweezing out the stray hairs.

Finding my natural brow shape took time. I sought the expertise of makeup artists over the years, and ended up with these basic steps that can help you shape your own brows.

Start where your brow begins. Using a brow pencil as your guide, make a vertical line from the side of your nose. Where the tip of the pencil stops is where your brow should start. Brush the spot and remove the hairs outside the mark you made. Do not pluck beyond the mark, as this can make your eyes appear wider.

Locate the arch. Looking straight at your reflection in the mirror, hold up the pencil vertically and away at the outer part of your iris. Ideally, this is where your arch should be. Brush this spot and pluck out the unruly hairs below the brow line to form a subtle arch.

Kelly Hsu, Rules of the Brush

CONTOUR with fluid motions.

General rule: Practice restraint

Pencil out where the brow ends. Line the pencil at an angle from the side of your nose to the outer corner of the eye. Where it stops is where the brow should end. Clean out any stray hairs beyond this point.

Tweeze away. To keep both brows evenly shaped, tweeze brows after plucking there to four hairs and stop back from the mirror regularly to check your progress. To avoid over-plucking, use concealer or white pencil over the places you've marked (while the brow pencil) and tweeze only on the shown areas.

Start tweezing in powder-room situations. For your brows to look neat and tidy not over-tweezed.

LIFESTYLE

Strong designs, uneven construction

PREMIER Collection D. by designer Gerry Ratighak

After 11 years, Philippine Fashion Week holds its biggest run and will be held twice this year

BY DESIGNER Oliver Tolentino, Grand Allure Collection

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

THE TOUGH ECONOMIC climate is forcing the Filipino designer to get real by scaling down his or her designs in order to sell.

That was the call in the Philippine Fashion Week (PFW), which surprised snipers and naysayers by turning out to be the biggest and most organized in its 11-year history.

The biggest surprise is that PFW will be presented twice a year, starting this October. Next year, the foreign press will be invited to cover the event.

"After 10 years of practicing, it's about time the Filipinos got exposed. We want to open Philippine Fashion Week to the world so we can promote Filipino designers. I have to be structured in the international way of doing things," said producer Joey Espino.

Pulling a heat

PFW started in 1997 as a yearly activity in Glorietta, organized by Ayala Malls to promote its stores. Over the years PFW has included established designers and newbies.

Many virtual unknowns such as Inez Santiago have already become mainstream. It also set the trend for companies to use fashion shows as an effective launch because of the nationwide media mileage.

This year, Nacho and Joey Lipana of Runway Productions renamed PFW a la Bryant Park Fashion Week. With the SM Group of Companies as partner, PFW was held in SMX Center, whose main exhibition hall is larger than the New York venue, Bryant Park.

In many shows, designer collections played to an SRO crowd at the 600-seat hall. "This means that the Filipino designer has a pull. Clients ordered their designs right after the shows," said Espino.

Henry Sy, no less—the father of Philippine retail—graced one event. The RTW labels were presented at SM Mall of Asia.

Next season, Runway Productions will set international guidelines for participants. They must present a minimum 20-piece collection to assure foreign press coverage. This should enable the public to see the full development of a designer's concept.

Espino envisions that by 2010, foreign buyers will be sitting on the front rows as well.

More sponsors have been showing interest, particularly for October when the theme is organic or green fashion and the established designers will be presented. This season, only fashion-related products such as Bemwol fabric care and Artistry cosmetics partnered with PFW.

Diverse perspective

PFW drew 110 participants, most of whom were newcomers and students. It showed diverse perspectives, from the young to the seasoned designers, such as Gerry Ratighak and Edgar Allan.

"This year's collections were more relaxed compared with the previous years. In the past, the clothes were more experimental and dramatic. Very few designers produced clothes that they couldn't sell. The younger breed is surprisingly wise. At the end of the day, they have to sell," says Espino.

We caught three shows: Grand Allure's or the evening/wine collection, a Premiere collection, and the Ready-to-Wear collection of young designers.

The evening wear collection showed exaggerated headline sleeves, variations of pleating and roses of skinny ruffles...also, our reflections from the couture collections to FIV Filipino designers showed the range of detail work from graphic prints, hand painting and appliqués.

There were some crazy styling for stage effects. One model even wore a black fully-darkened cocktail dress with tights and metal high-tech, lace-up boots. Another designer did a cropped jersey collection, which looked too dated.

Simple, salable

My personal choice was Inki Bellabon's collection, made from abaca. The simplicity of the cocktail dresses enhanced the subtle textures of the plant fibers. The colors (linen, cold night blue, rinsed red and gold) were salable.

AUDIE Espino and Joey Espino

Gerry Ratighak showed luxurious, combined vests and shorts, and his signature tunics and jodhpurs. He injected newness by streamlining the jodhpurs and making the tunics shorter and closer to the body. His men's scene mark (his diamond-colored appliqué blocks).

From the other collections, I couldn't fathom if a real man would wear a strapwound T-shirt that plunged to his navel. A T-shirt collection by another designer lacked powerful graphics, an element that should have sold it.

The young designers in the Ready-to-Wear collection were playful in their choice of colors and designs. The familiar name was Tippi Ocampo, who offered wood screw caps made from interwoven ribbons or fabric scraps, crossed with dyed jeans.

Dis-Gladys Weay showed variations of billowy, fluid drapes enfolding the body. The silhouettes could flatter any figure and the finishing was clean.

There were some weird stuff for an RTW collection, such as a cliff, shiny silver shirt that would grill a man in the heat. And a coat...wow, with those fringes that made the model look like a black version of Big Bird.

More conscious

We bumped into SM designer Anthony Nievara, who is known for his reliability. Responding to his modest crowds, he said his tops and shirts were tapered to flatter the gym-toned body. Hip-hop pants are on trend, he declared.

Most of the menswear collection featured Mood Bermudas. Homerun to the Grand Allure night, most of the men's suits were too long after the numerous pairings.

In all, the Filipino designers seemed more conscious of their designs, influenced perhaps by satisfying reality shows such as "Project Runway" and styling the interior. The collections were very strong in terms of refreshing color combinations. However, they fell short in fabric and construction.

Minimalist designs were unforgiving on cheap fabric and mediocre sewing. Designers who used shiny materials wouldn't handle them properly.

Except for the knitted jodhpurs or loose pants, hardly any of the sweaters showed the perfect fall. Those are factors the wearer considers before pinning any order. Filipinos love design, but they need the assurance of the craft to do justice to their creativity.

Nonetheless, it is the Filipino's exuberance that will keep fashion alive. As Espino puts it, "My hope for Filipino designers is that instead of putting each other down and looking for what is wrong, they have to look for what is right and make the best of what they have."

READY to Wear, Tippi Ocampo

ALVARO Pereira and Bagy Pangandian

ARNOLD Jumpay, Elroy Tevino and Richard Francia

BUZZ! Leyva, Paul Campos and Ken Dimma

TWO wild successful gals celebrate another great year. PR whiz and Asian Octagon executive editor Louie Cruz and world traveler Paul Campos

Together again

NANCY Carvajal, Alexis Feliciano and Chris Medina

ONE OF MY DEAREST PALS, Vilma Cruz Cindy Cruz, and good-looking former basketball player Xandeo Bleza hosted a super fun Joint birthday dinner for longtime pals, my favorite DJ, Louie Cruz, and Chicago-based Chad Campos.

It was meant to be a surprise, but somehow someone unintentionally let the cat out of the bag, dahlings.

Tow managers sent out as an invitation were forwarded to Louie, oops!

Anyway, it all ended well with tons of cheer pals, some of them living in Europe, coming to the party, pahanggan.

The yummy dinner served was nothing new to us because they were recipes of Louie's mom which she had proudly served us guests when JV Cruz, Louie's dad, was the ambassador to the Hague.

Everyone was excited to see Dexi, who has been living in Chicago for the past 20 years.

"I have my reservations about moving back because I love my life in Chicago, but after this nasty election I don't think I would be able to endure another one, if you get me drift."

Aprek dinner, we got so excited about this lady who should not wear her jeans too tight because her candies bulge, giving the impression that she was wearing adult diapers. Oh la la!

Someone asked Louie how many off-the-shoulder shirts he owns. Louie replied, "All my patrons are dun cut off the shoulder!"

Lately, Louie has been frequenting Greece, Bahamas, telling everyone that Cruz recommends him of the good old Bora can be sure to go!

Super Manila to rock with more action, dahlings, with those rare wild unnamed buddies, Louie and Paul, hanging out with us just like old times, pahanggan.

MICA , Louie Cruz and donor Ian Diego

MIKE Sandra Reitz

CANDY Cruz

NIKKI Cajucgco and Arthur Mossong

Tatler coup

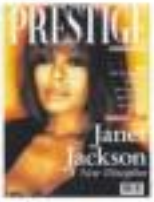
Congrats to Philippine Tatler, whose May 2008 issue recently made an appearance on the pages of Newsweek in the international newsmagazine's survey on "Undeniable Luxury" in its special report, "The Glamour and the Glam."

The Tatler story shot by famous model-photographer Nigel Barker, was chosen by Newsweek Tatler to represent Edipresse Asia for the article that discusses how only lifestyle magazines seem to be staying afloat in the sagging media industry.

In the Newsweek article, Barrie Gooderidge, the CEO of data Tatler, is quoted saying Tatler group "is like an exclusive club that invites clients and prominent society figures in to annual ball and private events." He adds the group "is enjoying a 25 percent annual rise in revenues across the whole data."

TATIA Feldsaler and Noreen Bar Agustin

MARA Puente de Torres and Taj Tejangkgil



PHILIPPINE Tatler and Prestige magazines

Photo by Mauricio Arroyo

AUDREY Chia

Rain heaven

It was one mystical thoroughly enjoyed, because it satisfied both my gastronomic and adventurous interests. I am talking about Heritage Food in Indo's showcase, "Exotic and Glamour Heritage of Indonesia," which gave us an authentic taste of Indonesian cuisine as well as a world-class batik exhibition, pahanggan. The showcase was brought to us by the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia.

A colorful fashion show by Adjie Notonegoro, Indonesia's premiere batik designer, displayed his 2008 collection of rompongs, ray kebaya, Indonesia's national dress, and evening gowns. Eight absolutely gorgeous, tall supermodels from Indonesia joined in the fun-filled show.

Aprek circulating and sipping teas the superbly prepared hot Indonesian currencies, we were given a brief seminar on batik, its history and value, its artistry and craftsmanship.

Rain carries home

Gianna Manilla's young, chic refreshing and fashionable sophistication came in handsome form to the launching of the Greenbelt 5 store of brilliant New York-based Filipino handbag designer Rafe Tolentino.

ACCESSORIALLY renowned southern soup Rafe Tolentino at the opening of Rafe in Greenbelt 5, his first-ever boutique outside New York

ADJI Notonegoro, premiere Indonesian fashion designer, accepts a bouquet from Madame Carolina Juliana Tandjung, wife of Indonesian Ambassador

FILMMAKERS Miranda, Mia Borromeo, Faye Zobel, Alexis Haffner and Mark Yuchengco

CECILLE Imbenzo and Pamela Jacinto

EVENING gown collection, Multifaceted designer Adjie Notonegoro personally does the hair and makeup of all models in his fashion shows

MARIA Sonja Tatur with daughter Ella, fashion designer Gerry Salolglok, Notonegoro, Yvonne Hermawan, of OPA-Indonesia, Angel Bot and Mina Gervacio of Heritage Hotel

AMBASSADOR of Cambodia in May and Ambassador of Malaysia Dato Ahmad Rasid Hamid amidst

LIZZIE Zobel and Tina Ocampo

ROCCO Duenas and Bella Rizada

MARY Pia and husband Eddie Yap, general manager of Heritage Hotel, professor Iman Tandjung, Ambassador of Indonesia to the Philippines and Madame Carolina Juliana Tandjung

BODY-HUGGING separates and slinky red-carpet dresses

Hofer goes bright, soft and daring

Text by Alex T. Vergara
Photos by Rocky Hondiola

GEN.2-BASED DESIGNER GJ HOFER, in last week's Fashion Week at Makati Shangri-La, drew inspiration from the beaches of Zamboanga Sibugay to produce a soft collection of billowing resort wear, body-hugging separates and slinky red-carpet dresses made of glittery stretched tulle lined with crash jersey.

The ongoing silverscreen series is produced by veteran designer Inez Icasiano and directed by Ariel Lozada, with corporate sponsors such as Belo Essentials, Nokia, Bruno Shaik Fashion Visa and Globe Authentic. Patrick Ronas and his team do the models' hair and makeup.

For the first time in weeks, regulars weren't limited to seeing black-and-white numbers. Instead they were treated to a burst of bright colors in the form of roomy jumpers and layered corsets in buttery yellow, apple green, sky blue and aqua.

In keeping with his resort theme, the designer also used lots of white cotton fabric, he sprayed up with interesting details such as appliqués, headwork, crochet and embroidery.

Hofer tempered his use of Swarovski crystals in favor of matte beads and seashells to embellish dresses and separates. After all, no beach bling would be worthy since he intended most of the pieces to be worn outside the city.

He also presented men's wear pieces—loose white tops and slim colored pants.

He's pretty sure that a few good—and daring—men would want to wear Hofer's white cotton and linen shirts. A cross between an Italian Army and a Filipino "morong" battle frock of Obando fame (sic), they're cool yet striking enough for hot weather.

Hofer's so-called "cropped" pants, however, would probably have few takers. For starters, the crotches' cavernous drawstring pockets looked too busy and unflattering, as they tended to bunch up in various locations.

Hofer also showed his versatility and maturity of tailoring and coating via an ode to rain that also flaunted such avant elements as the mandarin collar and frog closures.

He also paid tribute to the lowly *bong* (sleeping mat) via a woven cotton outfit as embellishment.

By producing sunglasses and miscellaneous items from shapers (the skin of mangoes), he was able to extend his line beyond dresses.

Apart from Hofer's closing number, a bold looking white cabaret outfit with huge balloon sleeves paired with a chic pair of pants, the designer also served palate with a series of spindly cut dresses that flattered their wearers' figures. Plus-sized women be damned!

He has a sense of contrast and proportion even as he resisted to pattern than experiment to use huge amounts of fabrics in the form of bunny-esque pants as well as voluminous blouses.

Alas, if only Hofer were as discerning with his choice of materials. The glittery stretched tulle he used for his supposed red-carpet numbers heavily weighed down the clothes' chic factor.

A long dress made of satin with a broad pair of beaded wings, aside from the fact that it was ill-fitting, stood out for the wrong reasons.

And even if it was well made, you don't just send out a structured piece amid all those soft numbers. Hofer's knitwear collection, although considering mostly of well-made and wearable, could benefit from a bit of editing.

DESIGNS by Rocsal Ramirez

Ramirez's take on retro

IN THE PHILIPPINE Fashion Week, Rocsal Ramirez showed his futuristic take on resort.

The show directed by Andrea Espino, with set and special effects designed by Ian Liduna on his Brother Digital, had lots of color and psychedelic prints. Titled Strobe, it channeled Jean Dunaway and Steve McQueen in their prime.

Wearable but fun, the clothes embodied "poly-stiffy" or clothes for multiple settings—corporate, cocktail, playful chic.

There were also geometric prints, tailored pieces—got new of metals with hues of green, snowy white and soft gray. There were handcrafted bead work, metallic fabrics.

There were also flapper pieces with acrylic accessories.

"Thank you for the memorable time, and for helping me regain my pre-baby figure!"

– Authentic customer statement, August 9, 2007*
(not a paid endorsement)

This client flew all the way from Sydney, Australia to get her slimming and body sculpting treatments done by Zunic.

"After 3 babies, it's definitely a must to visit Zunic on a regular basis!" she enthuses. "I'll be back again to revisit the experience. Congratulations to your wonderful and friendly staff!"

Having a baby is a wonderful experience, but a lot of women have troubles regaining their pre-pregnancy figure afterward.

Pregnancy can cause you to put on additional weight, which can be difficult to get rid of after your baby is born. And childbirth can leave unsightly stretch marks that can make you look (and feel) unattractive.

That's why Zunic has special programs and specific procedures to address these problems.

Like so many satisfied clients before her, this lady discovered how Zunic's advanced technology can work where diet and exercise fail, and when careful surgery, pills and injections are not an option.

BEFORE AFTER

Zunic's unique Slimming and Body Sculpting Method™ accelerates slow metabolisms and literally melts away layers of fat beneath the skin, shaping and toning your body the way you want it to look.

Results are commonly visible (and measurable) in as little as 45 minutes.

Treatments are conducted while you stretch out comfortably on a plush couch, without the sweating, anxiety and pain associated with traditional slimming methods.

That's why Zunic is the preferred choice of busy executives, full-time moms, frequent travelers, expatriates, and people whose medical conditions prevent them from exercising, undergoing surgery, or taking appetite suppressants.

Visit us today for a free, confidential consultation. We're open 8am to 8pm, Monday to Sunday!

*Individual results may vary. Actual results depend on how much fat is targeted for slimming and body sculpting.

FLABBY ARMS? Get two FREE Arm Toning treatments when you enroll on or before June 30, 2008! Experience measurable results in 45 minutes!

Body by Zunic
slimming & body sculpting

MAKATI
752-0800 or 752-0801
GF, Somerset Olympia
1912 Makati Avenue, Makati City

QUEZON CITY
374-0800 or 374-0806
GF New Orange Building
32 Timog Avenue, Quezon City

ALABANG
771-2206 or 771-2806
GF Vicenta Hotel, 5440 Montgomery Avenue
Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang

Brown diamonds are the new classic

Cartier builds on its history as the jeweler for the world's royals with its Le Inde Mysterieuse collection

By Margo C. Enriquez
Lifestyle Editor

AMID THE WORLDWIDE oil price hike and fears of economic slump, Cartier's business is sparkling.

Since the launch last September in the London Goldco Week of its largest luxury jewellerie or high jewelry collection, Le Inde Mysterieuse (Mystery of India), 90 percent of the 127 piece collection has already been sold.

The new collection is presented in a travelling exhibit, which is a modern take on Cartier's relationship with India. It pays tribute to the collaborations between this luxury jeweler and its maharajah clientele in the early 20th century which led to innovations in jewelry design.

Rarer than white diamonds, brown diamonds make a definitive statement in this collection as their appeal lies in hues that glimmer from honey to cognac. "Brown diamonds are becoming a new classic. Their color provides a contemporary touch," said Nigel Lusk, Cartier's managing director for the far East.

"Cartier will be leading the way in brown diamonds. It is first time we've devoted a complete collection to it," said Carmen Gomez, public relations manager for corporate in the Far East.

Despite the high demand and tight touring schedule, Le Inde Mysterieuse made it to Bangkok with a glamorous show for Cartier's top clients at the colonial Baffin's Mansion. In keeping with Cartier's tradition of being the jeweller of kings, the event was graced by Thai royalty.

PLATINUM earrings with brown, yellow and briolette-cut diamonds and brilliants

Princess Sirivannavari.

New elite

Like many country, Asian jeuellerie belongs to the exalted world wherein the rich demand luxury and use it to convey individuality. As in high fashion, high jewelry is used essentially for exhibition and to enhance a luxury brand's image. It is rarer commissioned by royals, wives of moguls and old-rich Middle Easterners who pay six to eight figure prices for an item, the tiniest from this collection come from China, Hong Kong and Thailand.

"In Asia, particularly in China, we did better than expected. Asian worldwide have been very, very good," Gomez said.

A surge in the population of the world's elite, advanced by billions of dollars of new money from India, China and Russia, is reconfiguring the upper layer of the luxury industry. This phenomenon not only keeps luxury businesses optimistic and but also defiant even as global economies stagger.

"Aside from Cartier fans, we've got to make new friends," Lusk said. "Our customer profile is mature (over 30 years old) but we are getting younger clients. Some are in real estate or entrepreneurs. In China, our customers have businesses in natural resources, mining, natural gas, automobile, etc. They're from different walks of life. By working hard, they reward themselves with something they like."

Hence, Cartier's sales customers pointed to 19 percent increase over last year's figure, and business in the first quarter of 2008 has been showing growth compared to the same period last year.

Lusk appeared unruffled by the mayhem in the financial markets. He said brisk real estate sales in Thailand and Hong Kong make him hopeful.

At the Bangkok launch, we admired a parure (a set of matching jewelry) inspired by Indian costume jewelry.

The necklace, in platinum with 420 tsavorite diamonds, totaling over 16 carats, with a 1.61-carat diamond, was worth some US$270,000. The matching earrings, studded with 188 diamonds, cost US$60,000.

Take the maroon ring, wherein a 20-carat emerald from Colombia is juxtaposed with 54 diamond baguettes in a platinum setting. It fetches US$ 2,958,000 or nearly P129 million.

"You could hardly see your finger without ring," remarked Lusk.

Maharaja's chronicle

Aside from craftsmanship and stones, there's rich history behind this collection.

Fourth-generation jeweler Louis Cartier was inspired by nature, history and exotic countries for subjects and patterns translated dramatically in gold, enamel, and precious stones.

He scored a coup by substituting gold and silver with a newer, purer kind of platinum, thus extending the possibilities in creating a spectacular array of jewelry.

His innovative designs fused precious stones and metals with other materials that resulted in stunning contrasts such as rock crystal spinjar onyx with brilliant-cut diamonds.

The accolade generated by the originality was such that Cartier jewelry gained greater respect not just as decoration and heirlooms but as an art form requiring the best raw materials and uncompromising technical standards.

In the early 20th century, Louis' brother, Jacques Cartier, had established relationships with the maharajahs of India. Their clients commissioned lavish parures, containing antique stones from their royal coffers and treasures their gold parures less platinum in Paris.

Cartier showed interest in Indian culture to modernized India's elaborate motifs and combined them with clean, geometric lines to make the jewelry more contemporary. Indian gemstones were set on Western configurations, where the invisible hinges here fluid lines to a traditionally stiff neckpiece or armband.

Concentrated colors

One of Cartier's signature looks is the bold combination of concentrated colors of emeralds, sapphires and diamonds and set in flowery and fruity motifs. This evolved into the Tutti Frutti design, inspired by India's splendor.

All these influences were evoked here in Le Inde Mysterieuse collection. Gomez cites the major inspiration in this collection. Shown diamonds evoked images of the spice market and the colors of India. It also collected the heirloom diamond which is pear or teardrop-shaped with triangular facets all around.

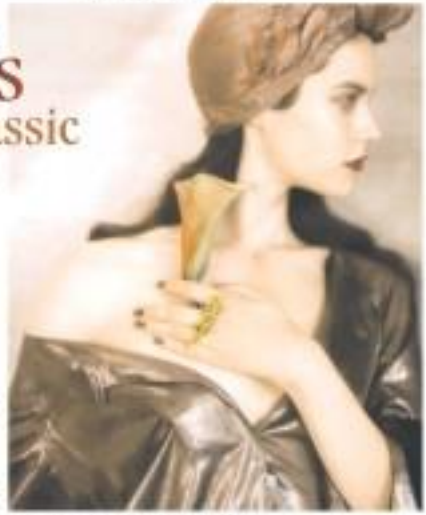
The tiger was a major element in this collection, set in yellow or white gold with onyx stripes and sapphire eyes staring at the observer.

"Tiger is associated with India. This animal also reflects Cartier's fascination with the feline world," said Gomez, referring to the brand's icon, the panther.

It took Cartier's artisans three years and thousands of diamonds and precious stones to produce these one-of-a-kind pieces. The starting price was US$1,450 or P68,000 for a Gomez ring in white gold.

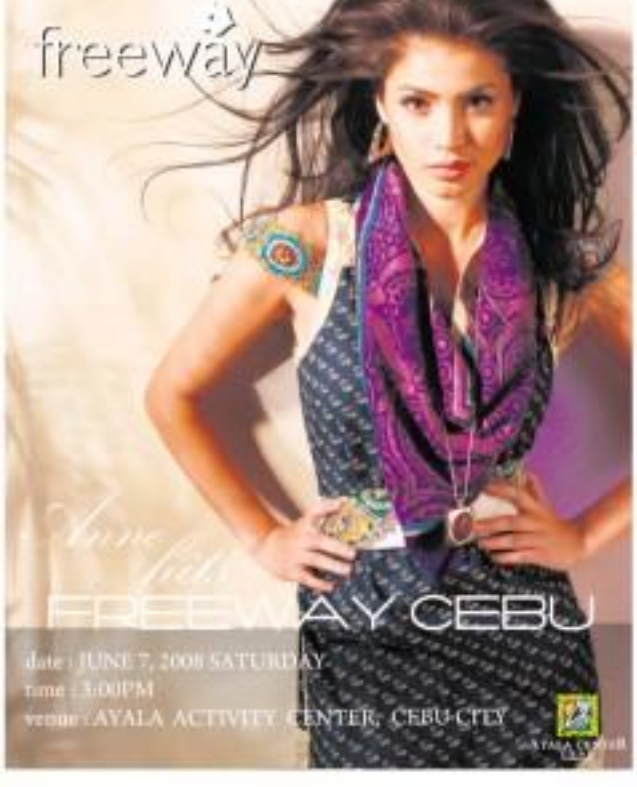
In the Philippines, Cartier is represented in an espace at Shangri-la and Cebu. Sales have been steady despite the political and economic conditions, majority of which is clad-to-feet from watches, followed by leathergoods, fragrance and accessories.

"The Philippines has had a relationship with Cartier for 20 years now," said Lusk. And that's a positive sign.



PLATINUM ring with sapphire eyes, onyx and brilliants

PLATINUM necklace with brown, yellow and briolette-cut diamonds and brilliants



LEFT Platinum earrings with briolette-cut diamonds, brilliants; 18k platinum necklace with brilliants; platinum necklace with rose-cut, yellow, brown and briolette-cut diamonds, diamond beads and brilliants

PLATINUM earrings with brilliants, platinum necklace with diamonds and brilliants

ENTERTAINMENT

A convenient place to live...
THE MANILA RESIDENCES
P10,645/mo.

CITYLAND
2007
567-3333
812-3222 687-3333 242-1212
www.CITYLAND.net

Capture summer's coolest colors with the hottest deal under the SUN

Comes with interchangeable covers!

Get 3 camera phones, 3 lines*
24/7 Call & Text Unlimited**
750*** FREE texts to other networks

All for P999/month

NOKIA 2600c Key Features:

Nokia 7030 also available at Plus 350 and Group Plus 899 (24-month lockin period).

Only one person needs to subscribe to get all the lines.
Where applying for your postpaid line, simply bring a valid ID, and the latest computed bill equivalent to or of higher value than the plan being availed (no ID/computation bill is not available, bring proof of billing and proof of income).

- Automatic mobiling partner
- Local Sun-to-Sun calls and texts only
- When enrolled in Unlimited services

Hurry to The Sun Shop and apply now!

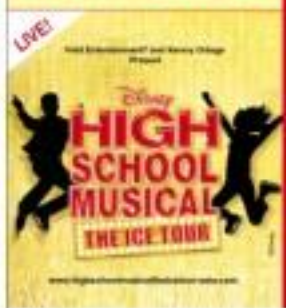
NOKIA

www.sunmobile.com.ph Hotline: 395-8080

SUN CELLULAR
Better network, better value.

SHOP AT ARANETA CENTER FOR A CHANCE TO
WIN TICKETS!

PLUS
MEET THE HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL STARS
EVERY PHILIPPINE LETS YOU JOIN
MAY 7 TO JULY 6, 2008
GET 10% OFF ON TICKETS INSTANTLY



'Woodstock' in Benguet

By Dolmar Curtis
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—MORE THAN 60 bands and solo acts from Metro Manila rocked this strawberry capital for some 54 hours last week to the delight of rockers, who were happy to realize there was more to music than their musicians of folk and country.

The event, "Strawberry Woodstock," was held at the Benguet State University (BSU) football grounds, attended by some 10,000 people, it could be this year's biggest local music festival.

The bands played nonstop from 8 p.m., May 29 to 2 a.m., June 1.

Tribute to OPM

Solo artists like Joey Ayala, Lolita Carbon, Jimy "Pepe" Smith and DJ Alvaro brought the crowd to their feet, while bands like the Philippine Violinists, Alamid and Grin Department got the crowd thumping and clenching with their punk, pop-rock and hardcore laced songs.

Hosts were Eric Bob Magno (formerly of dnSO), Ramon Zialcita (a.k.a. The Doctor of 99.5 RT, LA 100 and 99.9 Country in Baguio) and John La Rosa ("Eighteen Wheeler" of dnSO Magic 89.9/Baguio).

Concert organizer Mario Legaspinas, an Ivatan and now a resident of Baguio City, said the event was meant to pay tribute to overseas Filipino workers. He sought Zialcita's help to gather as many bands in the country, drawing inspiration from the original "Woodstock Music & Art Fair," the historic three-day event held in Bethel, New York from Aug. 15-18, 1969. (See related story below.)

Legaspinas, then 15, was in the Bethel audience. From there on, he said, he dreamt of organizing his own "Tribo Woodstock."

He said he chose to hold the concert in this capital town to promote its culture and products through rock music.

"Most of all, I it was organized in top local talents," said Legaspinas. "Local talent is amazing and terrific. There's a sea of talents in Benguet."

TWO young talents from the band I Ede have fun in up for the audience.

LOLITA Carbon

MARIO Legaspinas

Ice and the City stars Sarah Jessica Parker, Kristin Davis, Kim Cattrall and Cynthia Nixon.

By Edwin Mendoza & Jocelyn Tabangay / PARENTS' Circle Jr. Writer

"SEX AND THE CITY" Continues to drive U.S. Box Office

The BEST Non-Holiday Film after 'Iron Man'

After a 053.7M 3-day weekend gross, "Sex and the City" grossed a hoity 085.8 million on Monday (June 2) at the U.S. box office, underscoring the lucrative weekday market for date movies and the pic's tenaciously robust reach.

Outside Memorial Day, the Monday gross is the best for any non-holiday film so far this year after "Iron Man's" first Monday, in which it earned 66.8 million.

"Sex and the City's" four-day domestic cume was 049.5 million from 3,303 theaters through Monday, according to Rentrak. Opening weekend haul for the Warner Bros. and New Line pic was 057 million – the sort of number generally reserved for asair-driven event pics or family fare, not romantic comedies.

"Sex and the City" even won the weekend crown over Paramount holdover "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull".

"Sex and the City" also delivered in its overseas bow with 037.8 million.

VISITORS view a multimedia show, "The Story of the Sixties and Woodstock," right. Below, Duke Devlin witnesses the 1969 scene. AP

FUNTERTAINMENT WEEKEND
MATCH
NARNIA PRINCE CASPIAN and Ratatouille
at Glorietta 4 or Glorietta 1 cinemas on June 7 & 8, 2008
and enjoy any of the following KIDDIE TREATS:
• FACE PAINTING
• GLITTER TATTOO
• COLORING BOOK & SET OF CRAYONS
(by THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN movieposter)
• ANIMAL RIDE (at least P 200 purchase)
glorietta

Historic '69 gig spawns a mus

BETHEL WOODS, NEW YORK—THE HISTORIC 1969 Woodstock festival has spawned a museum in tribute to the birthplace of 60s countercultura.

A half-million "hippies" turned out in the small farming village of Maxinkuck, north of New York City, to enjoy music performances by the likes of Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin.

Now comes the Museum, located not in Woodstock but Bethel Woods, a country drive from the former dairy meadow 40 years ago by time — some raised, some dragged — during five more and four days.

The multimedia museum, on a 240-hectare farm, is a brainchild of Alan Gorg, who made his fortune in the food and/or TV business. Gorg bought and developed the property into a $100-million arts and performance center with some 1,000 square meters of exhibits, including photos of concert-goers swimming naked or praying for rain to stop.

GROUNDBREAK visitors to the festival, right, and copy of the original poster. AP

LANDMARK an elaborate museum has been placed... spectators gathered to...

Hendrix was the key

The concert came together once legendary guitarist Jimi Hendrix agreed to perform. "As soon as he said yes, we had the floodgates open," organizers say in a video museum goers see at the new sites from the past facility.

A documentary is screened on turbulent events of the times, including assassinations of political icons John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., paving the country to historical women. The festival also made a stand for peckers, with unarmed guards wearing tags reading "peace," instead of "security." The film's historical backdrop also includes real rights struggles.

Organizers said the impact of those times on will be seen and felt across the US today.

"If we have made a moment and an African-American starting for president, that's the legacy" folk legend Richie Havens said. Havens, a singer-guitarist, opened the Woodstock festival when other seats were stuck in a massive traffic jam on a local highway.

His improvised version of "Motherless Child," to which he added a verse with the word "freedom" repeated over and over eventually became an international hit. More recently, Havens

VISITORS walk through "The Story of the Sixties and Woodstock" at the Bethel Woods Museum.

RICHIE Havens in his

Manila artists rock La Trinidad in a three-night musical tribute to OFWs

BAMA, left, wins believers with unique rythms.

The concert gave three local talents—among them Lourdes Dimeryan Bergki, tagged as the "Songbird of the Cordillera", pop singer John Uding, progressive ethno-rock group Bagiw and folk-rock band Bidal—the chance to perform their music. The last two groups gained exposure to the national music scene largely through the efforts of Dalwin and Vin Arliwa Ula at the defunct LA 105.

The acts of Carbon and American Wicked Eyheras, the only foreigner in the roster of performers, were electrifying.

Carbon played some of the best-loved songs of her legendary group Asin, and Eyheras wowed the crowd with his wizardry on the keyboards.

Asked why she didn't mind travelling a far distance to join "Strawberry Woodstock," Carbon replied, "This is an important music assembly. It's a tribute to OFWs and I want to do my part."

KUNG FU PANDA
FUN DAY FOR KIDS
June 8, 2008 (Sunday),
11:00 AM at the
Robinsons Movieworld Galleria
Cinema Lobby
Kids can participate in the coloring activity and have their photo taken with PO the Panda.
Hurry, register now at the ticket booths.
Slots are limited.
MOVIEWORLD
IN THEATERS JUNE 6

CINEMA ACCESS 633-5555
MOVIEWORLD
ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA
1 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
2 KUNG FU PANDA
3 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
4 KUNG FU PANDA
5 INDIANA JONES
6 CARE GIVER
7 21
8 IsaSaBinas: Sa Pagdapo ng MARIPOSA
9 SEX AND THE CITY
10 KUNG FU PANDA

ERMITA
1 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
2 KUNG FU PANDA
3 INDIANA JONES
4 INDIANA JONES
5 SEX AND THE CITY
6 KUNG FU PANDA
7 21
8 CARE GIVER
9 KUNG FU PANDA

METRO EAST
1 KUNG FU PANDA
2 KUNG FU PANDA
3 SEX AND THE CITY
4 21
5 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
6 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
7 INDIANA JONES
8 CARE GIVER

NOVALICHES
1 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
2 KUNG FU PANDA
3 CARE GIVER
4 INDIANA JONES

PIONEER
1 KUNG FU PANDA
2 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
3 INDIANA JONES
4 CARE GIVER

Watch LIVE via SATELLITE
MOVIEWORLD
GALLERIA • MANILA • METRO EAST
TICKET PRICE: P550.00
IMUS • BACOLOD
STARMILLS, PAMPANGA
TICKET PRICE: P500.00
Tickets are available at the ticket booth
FREE KNOCK OUT MEAL
for every ticket purchased

STA. ROSA
1 KUNG FU PANDA
2 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
3 CARE GIVER
4 MEGA SNAKE

LIPA
1 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
2 KUNG FU PANDA
3 CARE GIVER
4 THE POSSESSED

DASMARINAS
1 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
2 KUNG FU PANDA
3 MEGASNAKE
4 CARE GIVER

IMUS
1 KUNG FU PANDA
2 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
3 INDIANA JONES
4 CARE GIVER

ANGELES
1 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
2 KUNG FU PANDA
3 CARE GIVER
4 PERFECT CREATURE

STARMILLS
1 21
2 PERFECT CREATURE
3 INDIANA JONES
4 CARE GIVER
5 KUNG FU PANDA
6 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN

BACOLOD
1 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
2 KUNG FU PANDA
3 CARE GIVER
4 INDIANA JONES
5 MEGA SNAKE
6 NEVER BACK DOWN

ILOILO
1 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
2 KUNG FU PANDA
3 CARE GIVER
4 INDIANA JONES
5 THE SAVAGES
6 PERFECT CREATURE / MEGA SNAKE

Wanted: PBB Teen champ

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Big winner is still anyone's guess, says resident psychiatrist

MORE CULTURALLY DIVERSE...

This is how resident psychiatrist Randy Dellosa describes this year's batch of housemates on the ABS-CBN reality show "Pinoy Big Brother Teen Edition Plus."

The addition of cross-cultural teens, including a Filipino-Spanish, Filipino-Swede, Filipino and Filipino-German, sure "part of a social experiment," explains Dellosa. "We wanted to see how they would interact."

Dellosa, tasked to oversee related humanitarian matters the latest group, "We one can fully prepare for the pressures of being inside Kuya's house. But some teens are resilient — they didn't need guidelines but were spurred and learned from them instead."

The show's Final Five—Benny Gonzales, Bobi Domingo, Nicole Uytiatong, Alex Avancena and Ejay Falcon—are very different personalities, he notes. He describes Domagoso-son Benny as "emotionally immigrated", Avancena Bobi as "intelligent", provincial lad Ejay as "obedient and hard-working". Filipino-Aussie Nicole as "naughty but cute", Filipino-Swede as "pinoy-acculturated."

The Big Winner is still anybody's guess, Dellosa asserts. "PBB doesn't prescribe specific standards or guidelines for viewers in choosing the big winner."

Results are determined solely by vote votes. Finale night is set tomorrow on the Araneta Coliseum.

As our group-tyrant, yet another housemate, Alex Avancena—Census-eliminated, rounding up the show's Final Five.

Dellosa relates that the Final Four "have matured" a crucial stage of "fierce but subtle" competition.

"They need to prove to viewers that they deserve to win, at the same time, they can't be too obnoxious about it."

The little tyrant-like strategy is key, he says. "Too they also feel helpless because they don't know which strategy can help them win."

Dellosa offers this advice: "In the end, the best strategy is to just be good and avoid making serious blunders."

(E-mail: bayanisandiego@hotmail.com)

TOP FIVE (clockwise from top, left): Alex, Benny, Ejay, Nicole and Bobi.

Unanimous 'A' for 'Caregiver'

THE CINEMA EVALUATION Board has given a grade of "A" to Star Cinema's "Caregiver," entitling it to a 100-percent entertainment tax rebate. It has earned P70 million a week after its opening, according to Star Cinema.]

Although it's the third "A" grade for the year, following Claudia Zobel's "Tanda" and Peque Gallaga's "Paano," it's the first to earn a "unanimous" "A." The CEB praises "Caregiver" for "faithfully depicting the lives of OFWs in London without falling into the stereotype trap."

Director Chito Roño is "commended ... [for] steering clear of the melodramatic path." Lead star Sharon Cuneta, co-star John Estrada, as well as the British cast members, were given high marks. In turn, the CEB calls it a "well-made, brilliantly acted, technically adept film." The CEB is under the Film Development Council of the Philippines, headed by Rolando "Lucky" Antonio. *(Bayani San Diego Jr.)*

Gary V reveals regrets, highs in his 25-year career

LOS ANGELES—"NOTHING HAPPENS BY accident," said Gary Valenciano in response to e-mail questions he sent to us. Buoyed on his 25 years in show business when we interviewed him via e-mail.

As part of a year-long celebration of his show biz milestone, they gave to be the first Filipino artist to hold a concert at the Nokia Theater, LA's hot new venue where "American Idol" recently moved its finals, after ditching the smaller Kodak Theater, home of the Oscars.

As befits the grand venue and occasion, it won't be business as usual for Mr. Pure Energy tomorrow, June 7, at 7 p.m. Gary hosted 12 superstars and guest performers by his wife, Pinkie and Gabriel Valenciano, emerging performers in their own right, and Martin Nievera.

Hi Are Allan Pineda, better known as upLabs of the Grammy-winning Black Eyed Peas, and Abbeywindsor, "America's Best Dance Crew" winners which means three Filipinos in its ensemble now, are also billed in the concert, which means no American, Caucasian on June 13 and Seattle, Washington on June 15. Allan is scheduled to perform in the LA gig only. More information about the concert is available on www.thatsmoreentertainment.com.

Excerpts from our Gary interview:

How excited are you to be the first Filipino artist to have a concert in the new Nokia Theater?

The Nokia Theater is new and has already become a desired venue for many artists like myself, who come from outside the US. To be the first Filipino artist to perform that venue is such a privilege. I take pride in not just my self but the talents of all Filipino artists. It always makes me feel proud to carry that in my heart.

You and Martin have become stronger friends over the years. What made it possible for you to realize from rivals — who are friendly to each other — to close friends?

Our rivalry was never something we created but rather something created by others — fans and the media. At like to say there were many moments that brought me just as, but our families, closer. I'm known about my faith in Christ and I am thankful that he showed to share his life with me while being attentive to what I have to say to everyone. He's one person where I can give little to our brothers, Ram Pinda. That's why Pinda was named Juan Pinda Martin. I am Salgado from Martin.

Martin appeared about the same time you were also entering the scene. Do you think this was fate or simply a coincidence? Share your memories of meeting Martin for the first time.

Nothing happens by accident... I will never forget the first time I saw Martin at St. Paul's College in Quezon City. He needed some help because his emcee-ing material couldn't be played in the system the school had. He had to borrow some of my materials on cassette tape. But his biggest problem was that he didn't know the lyrics of the song he was about to do. So I came up with the idea that I would share the lyrics from backstage, through the curtains... That was the first time we actually connected on a conversation and since then, we've had a real good friendship. The song was "You," which was originally sung by Basil Valdez.

You've performed many times in LA. How will this show be different?

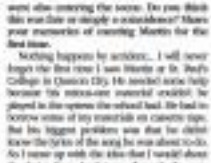
It's going to be the same Gary V but this time with a little bit of what was, what is, and what's next. My sons Paolo and Gabriel are a part of this concert and that always means a lot to me. They both are two completely different personalities and so that in itself adds to much variety to the concert. Also in the show are Jason and Joshua Xiamora of the Xiamoreaves and Miss Aprona, formerly of the Anjou.

Aplabs rap and hiphop numbers each have created their own following and to know that they are a part of all this is the icing on the cake. I guess. Louie Ocampo arranged a unique show-case-type of concert with demonstrations what we look do here while Hiro Bautista arranged a switch medley... what does that mean? Well, people have to watch that.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

...he also talks about his friendship with Martin Nievera, a guest in his LA concert



NOW REALLY for Martin and Gary

How are Paolo and Gabriel similar to, and different, from you?

Paolo is very much like his mother angelic, cool and patient, a very deep thinker, while Gabriel's are like just in school, easy to laugh, relax and temperamental. Paolo is very practical and businesslike and is a songwriter just like me...

Gabriel emotional and a performance teenager. He did the "Shoes For Joy" is arrangement in my new "Relatin" album. He loves basketball, just like me...

You've enjoyed many defining moments in your 25 year-career. But we'd like you to choose and share what is the single defining moment in your career that you consider the most important.

When Pinkie and I were born. Prior to that, I made a decision not to deny the pregnancy of Angeli. It was a very controversial decision and to that day I've never regretted it. "After," my first concert at the Araneta Coliseum, happened three weeks after my announcement about Angeli's pregnancy and it was sold out...

And what were the career opportunities that got away?

I was asked several times to switch from (recording) Cube to Nupi and one of the greatest opportunities was to sing with Tina Turner in the commercial which Glen Padilla ended up doing. I couldn't turn my back on Coca-Cola just because of the opportunity to sing with a global superstar.

What are your regrets?

I always feel that I should have spent more time with God to hear more from Him and so I could maximize the gifts He has given me. I regret that I did miss out on some real good opportunities like when I recorded in the USA with Danny Bates and George Duke. I allowed them to dictate what they wanted me to do. I should have fought for what I felt was more suited to my style. Also, when I had many opportunities in Japan, I allowed people to tell me what to record.

What was the toughest moment for you, especially in regard to having diabetes and performing?

In 2000, when I just performed for the AIAP concert at the Ron Dowl Stadium in Pasadena, California, I nearly died the day after, due to hypo and jet lag. I had an insulin overdose and while I was asleep, Angeli suddenly woke up at three o'clock in the morning. I was having a seizure...I nearly went into a coma and died. Angeli rescued me and called 911 and the paramedics helped me recover.

E-mail the columnist at rnepales_5000@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," at http://blog.inquirer.net/nepalesreport.

LIVING Stars

Website: www.inquirer.net/livingstars

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Send feedback: inquirer.net/livingstars/message to 2222 (Globe) and 7222 (Smart) or e-mail us at editor.livingstars@inquirer.com.ph

MUSICIAN'S LENSMAN

Canadian musician and photographer Bryan Adams paves between two of his pictures to promote his exhibition, "Hear the World Ambassadors," in Berlin. The exhibit runs until June 11 at the Postdamer Platz Center and presents 33 black-and-white photographs by Adams. All proceeds go to the Hear the World Foundation. AFP

On Father's Day, show Dad how much you love him. Melt his heart with Magic steak that melts in his mouth. He'll certainly look forward to the next one. That's the magic of Melo's.

Melo's

RICA PERALEJO

MY FAVORITE SPOT IN THE HOUSE VARIES depending on what I'm busy with. When I was still in a lawyer, I used to love the bathroom, where I prepared my costume for the show. Now, because I have to keep abreast with current events for "Umagang Kay Ganda," I stay in the TV room most of the time. I set up a table there for my laptop and just lie on the couch. I could stay there for entire week and not even remember my bedroom.

Married R. Cruz

FAVORITE NOOKS

Experts Know What's Best For Your Health...

WALTER

Health Nutrition

Delicious Bread, Proper Nutrition, Healthy Living

Walter Health Nutrition Breads are high in fiber, low in fat, no cholesterol and transfat free. By working with nutrition experts and using only the best ingredients, Walter creates products which combine nutritional value and great taste.

Simply No Alternative For The Healthy Choice

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY:

"Living a healthy life need not be taxing. Smart eating, nutritious Walter Breads make healthy living much easier. I personally use Walter Breads in my cooking sessions. The Cranberry," especially since my clients demand only the very best"

"I am very particular with the healthy food I recommend to my clients. One important tip I tell a Walter Bread I can recommend with true they revealed on research & development in making healthy food taste great."

"I have been personally eating and recommending to my clients Walter delicious and healthy breads since 2005. What I like about Walter Bread is that it focuses on emphasizing the health benefits of the ingredients in their products. I would say, there is truth in each of its brand's claims."

The Leading Brand in Health & Nutritional Benefits

For more information, please call tel. no. 5357330 o 7466565 or log on to: www.walterbread.com

AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING SUPERMARKETS

NINA JOSE

BOOKS

"AUDREY, REAL STORY" BY ALEXANDRIA Walker is my favorite book because it reveals interesting details of the life of my idol, Audrey Hepburn.

I also like "Confessions of a Shopaholic" by Sophie Kinsella because I love shopping.

I consider the "Lord of Pardon" booklet good luck. I always have that in my pocket, even during the "Pinoy Big Brother" auditions.

Married R. Cruz

ANGEL AQUINO

MY FAVORITE AUTHOR IS [illegible] BOOK writer and illustrator Liberty Bonoan. My first exposure to his work is "The Missing Piece." It was the first book I ever read to my daughters Jana and Thea. They cry every time I read his books to them. His pencil-art illustrations are very impressive. I did research on him and found out that he also did drawings for Playboy magazine! I also love his other book, "The Giving Tree." It's about an apple tree that gave everything—fruits, leaves, trunk—to a boy. It's a metaphor for parenting. It teaches unconditional love.

Reynaldo Jose Edgar Jr.

YENG CONSTANTINO

I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO HAVE AN other pet dog after my Chowchow named Chai died a few years ago. I went to a pet shop once, but I just wasn't ready for a new dog. I got an aquarium with different kinds of fish instead. Taking care of them is pretty easy. You just feed them once a day and change the water in their tank occasionally. I'm thinking of getting a chameleon in the future.

TAIL TALES

Married R. Cruz

SM CINEMA movietime

visit www.smcinema.com | powered by yahoo!

Experience larger than life Kung Fu with Po The Panda and the furriest live on IMAX starting June 6.

Enjoy your "Po The Panda Day" at IMAX (SM MOA)!
Make your attendance count: watch Po and exciting live activities for every ticket purchase!

SM MEGA IMAX THEATRE

METRO MANILA

IMAX

KUNG FU PANDA

Admission Price: P300

11:30 AM • 2:00 PM • 4:30 PM • 7:00 PM • 9:30 PM

THE PODIUM

NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN

KUNG FU PANDA

EXTENDED OPENING HOURS

CINEMA 1

NARNIA Prince Caspian

SOON TO OPEN

LUZON

SOON TO OPEN

VISAYAS • MINDANAO

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

POWER PLANT CINEMA

INDIANA JONES – G	NARNIA – PRINCE CASPIAN – G	NARNIA – PRINCE CASPIAN – G
SEX AND THE CITY R – 13	21 R – 13	NARNIA – PRINCE CASPIAN – G

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

METRO MANILA THEATER ASSOCIATION

NOW SHOWING

Schedules are subject to change without prior notice

RED CARPET

MTV Movie Awards, LA on June 1

SARAH Jessica Parker

LIV Tyler

Eastwood City presents DAUGHTRY LIVE AT EASTWOOD CITY

June 29, 2008 • 8:00pm

Get your tickets NOW! Limited seats only!

CALL 911-5555

Eastwood City presents BACK TO OLD SCHOOL

Kyoy Volante

June 8, 2008 • 6pm

Eastwood Central Plaza

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

687-6963

QUARANTIED SEATS

INDIANA JONES

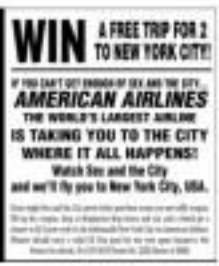
KUNG FU PANDA

CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

SEX & THE CITY

CINEMA 20 Theater

ACTOR Kirk Douglas greets school children before the dedication ceremony of the 400th school playground funded by the Anne & Kirk Douglas Playground Award Program at Lillian Elementary School in Los Angeles. Below left, the actor, Michael Douglas' dad, tries the slide himself.



At the Cinemas

Glorietta 1	1 Indiana Jones	2 The Chronicles of Narnia	3 Sex & the City	4 Indiana Jones
Glorietta 4	1 Caregiver	2 Sex & the City	3 The Chronicles of Narnia	
	4 Iron Man	5 21	6 The Chronicles of Narnia	7 Indiana Jones
Greenbelt 1	1 Sex & the City	2 The Chronicles of Narnia		
Greenbelt 2	1 Sex & the City	2 The Chronicles of Narnia		
	3 21	4 Indiana Jones	5 The Chronicles of Narnia	
Alabang Town Center	1 The Chronicles of Narnia	2 Caregiver		
	3 Sex & the City	4 Indiana Jones	5 Sex & the City	
Ayala Center Cebu	1 The Chronicles of Narnia	2 Caregiver	3 Indiana Jones	4 Sex & the City
Market! Market!	1 Caregiver	2 Sex & the City		
	3 The Chronicles of Narnia	4 The Chronicles of Narnia	5 Indiana Jones	
Trinoma	1 Caregiver	2 21	3 Indiana Jones	4 Iron Man
	5 Sex & the City	6 The Chronicles of Narnia	7 The Chronicles of Narnia	

At the Malls

Ayala Malls

- Glorietta — Trumpets Playshop Workshop, April 2 – June 2, Glorietta Homeroom. For inquiries, pls. call Rina Regacit at 7328831
- Greenbelt — Afro-Brazilian Weekends at Greenbelt with movement, music and kaleidoscope! May 17, 1 PM, Greenbelt 2, 2nd level
- Alabang Town Center — Summer Workshop: Urban Dance Classes, May 10 – June 1, 5 PM, Sports and Hobbies Facade
- Ayala Center Cebu — Fun and Shop Promo, May 12-31
- Market! Market! — Asian Tropical Living – An Interior Design Exhibit, March – June 30, Home Market, 3rd Level
- Cinemagic — SWEEP SALE! The perfect spot for concerts, stagepiays & corporate events is now accepting bookings for May to July 2008. For inquiries & bookings, pls. call 753.7662 or 757.3481
- Ayala Museum — Paintings by 19th Century artist Simon Flores, ongoing until May 25, 2008. For more information, please call 757.1757 loc 21 exon or e-mail museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
- Tri Noma — Philippine Bird Fair, May 30-31 / 10 AM – 6 PM, Activity Center

SEX AND THE CITY
WEEKEND PICK-A-PRIZE
Watch SEX AND THE CITY
at GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS
and get a chance to win a prize!
SEX AND THE CITY Premium Items:
Diaries • Vinyl Bags • Mugs • Key Chains
VCD (Box Set) • Posters
and many more

Teens & Kids Zone

Now Open
3rd Level, Glorietta 3

KIDS
Baby Couture Bazaar
Babyland
Bebe Tot Kids
Boogie Nights
Big & Small
Dakota
Cute As Sin
E-Mart
Jun Gala
Shopwonders
Trendy & Retro
Kids of Boys
Mod Bee
Mod My Set
Orange Tree
Oshkosh B'Gosh
Paperkutz
Pop Box
Spin
Think Pop
Toytown
TEENS
Bench
Jil Road Up
American Eagle
Abercrombie
Bayo
Bench
Diesel
Diva Diva
G-Kids
Guess
Jun Gala
Forest & Wing
Francesca
Hang Ten
Kashieri
Levi
Mine Madness
Petit Jacinto
Pizza & Wings
Skechers
Stella
Spo
Rivets de
Tomato
Wrangler
X
YMS
SPECIALTY
Ang Sa's
Bead Shop
Cindy Lawson
Cindy Dalet
Color Stone
Courtside
Cubes
Dakota
Gift Factory
Girl Stuff
Island Life
Jo
Mythic
MERT
Mod Hair
Soap It
Sports
Surf Style
Swimwear
Tevin
Whimsy

Glorietta · Greenbelt · Ayala Center Cebu · Trinoma

You can call her 'Ukay Queen'

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Rony Remitado

PINOY BIG BROTHER Season 2" winner Beauty Sare is a self-proclaimed Ukay Queen.

The 22-year-old claims she started buying cuddle bears high-end boutiques only last year, shortly after she bagged the grand prize in the Kapamilya talent search. Her celebrity status, she says, keeps her busy going to interviews and hogging with the stations.

"I bought a dress in Divisoria recently, but I made sure to be there when there were not too many people around," Sare said Saturday, freaks of this Sunday's Globe Astrodpe to Quezon City. She wore that dress, a black halter number, during the premiere of her debut movie, Cathy Garcia-Molina's "One More Chance."

"I prefer dresses to pants," said Sare. "When I was still in school, I would spend all my allowance buying clothes in bazaars. I just make sure the items are of good quality favorites long memoir ratings at ukay."

CAMOOGING. Her puppy, and other stuffed toys are gifts from friends.

OUT OF THE CLOSET

SHE pampers herself with shower gels and moisturizers in fruity scents.

BIG bags are best for Sare to put all her stuff in.

SHE prefers peep-toe shoes to pumps.

T'BOLI necklace is the perfect accessory for a plain white shirt, says the young fashionista.

SHE buys beaded bracelets only because she needs them for work.

A GIFT from her ex-boyfriends sister

Clothes

This satin polka dot dress is a gift from my ex-boyfriend's sister. It's special to me since she chose to give it to me from among her brother's ex-girlfriends.

The knitted dress from Kamiseta is a favorite. This was what I used to the first press conference of "One More Chance." The red dress was when I went during the opening of my waist stores, one of the prizes I got for winning PBB. In Chinese tradition, red is a sign of good luck.

I wore the black sequined halter from Maldita at the '07 awards ceremony where PBB won the Best Reality Show award.

I hardly wear jeans, but when I need to, I go for Jag. The fabric is really comfy, and the cut fits me perfectly.

Bags

The SOHO bag is special because it was the first gift I received from ABS-CBN. The pink Liz Claiborne purse is a gift from my best friend. I really prefer big bags to small ones. I want to be able to put all the stuff I need in one place. I like hobo-type these days. You think they're small but they pack so many things in them.

Footwear

The first pair of expensive slippers I ever bought is from Aldo. I hardly wear it. Any tsinelas! The black-brown high-heeled pair is from Celine. I have not used it yet. I just like looking at it.

Toys

I really love the stuffed toy puppy that a friend gifted me. I call him Caboodoo. Another stuffed toy is a baby chara. It's supposed to answer money for you.

Accessories

My treasure from accessories. Her mother, from his one. Others I buy only when I need more for work.

The winner of "Pinoy Big Brother Teen Addition Plus" will be announced on Sunday night at the Big Dome in Quezon City.

E-mail me mail@inquirer.com.ph

MAGIC hour by a manmade lake in KL.

FOGGY morning in Langkawi

Malaysia on his mind

By Reynel San Diego Jr.
Photos by Albert Martinez

OVER TOO MAGIS.

Actor Albert Martinez says he has the sunny temps of his recent month long stay in Malaysia, where he taped the ABS-CBN soap opera, "It Time for Us," directed by Gilbert Perez.

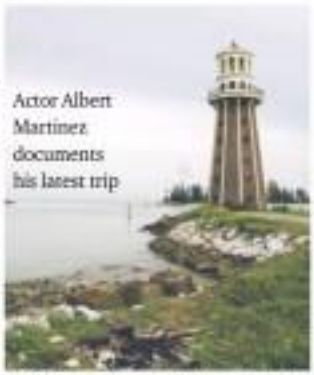
He says he makes it a point to document all his travels and shoots here and abroad.

"I'm planning to mount an exhibit soon," he says. "I hope to put together a coffee-table book, too."

He singles out his photograph of scenic Cameron Highlands as his favorite.

The actor said he had a field day in Malaysia because he could shoot to relative

LULI art reveals exhibits at Pavilion Mall.



ANOTHER favorite: Lighthouse at Jetigo Harbor Park.

Actor Albert Martinez documents his latest trip

HOBBIES

anonymity, unlike his soap co-star and fellow shortstop, Jericho Rosales, who's "a superstar there."

"Echo's song, 'Stregalo Sa Ti' was a big hit in Malaysia," Albert notes. "Sana, Lorna Tolentino's show 'Bay Tapal Kung Hindway' is airing."

Next time he visits Kuala Lumpur, Albert may not be able to shoot as freely because "A Time for Us" would be running by then.

(E-mail: bayanisandiego@hotmail.com)

Distributed by WOMP! through Columbia Pictures International Inc.

AT THE Kuala Lumpur Monorail, Albert Martinez calms a break from shooting.